

OCT 26 1942

RECREATION

— October 1942 —

"Over There"

By Lora Kelly

Home Play in Wartime

A Hallowe'en Barn Frolic

By Mary Hitchings

Where Adults Are Not Admitted

By Ruth Dauchy

Decatur Doubles Its Recreation Tax

By Mary Graham Andrews

Volume XXXVI, No. 7

Price 25 Cents

Vol. 36

OCTOBER 1942

No. 7

RECREATION

Published by and in the interests of the National Recreation Association
formerly named Playground and Recreation Association of America

Published Monthly

at

315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Subscription \$2.00 per year

RECREATION is on file in public libraries and is indexed in the
Readers' Guide

Table of Contents

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| Extracts from Address by Ambassador John G. Winant..... | 373 |
| Thanksgiving | 375 |
| What They Say About Recreation..... | 376 |
| A Hallowe'en Barn Frolic, by Mary Hitchings..... | 377 |
| The Children's Hour, by Myrtle F. Patterson..... | 380 |
| Where Adults Are Not Admitted—Unless Accompanied by a Child, by Ruth Dauchy | 381 |
| "Make and Mend It" | 384 |
| "Over There," by Lora Kelly..... | 385 |
| Square Dances for Soldiers, by Ruthalee Holloway Jorgensen..... | 388 |
| Decatur Doubles Its Recreation Tax, by Mary Graham Andrews..... | 389 |
| Service Men in the Out of Doors, by Garrett G. Eppley..... | 394 |
| A Treasure Hunt Full of Thrills! by John Ripley Forbes..... | 400 |
| A Recreation Board for Washington, D. C..... | 403 |
| Do You Believe in Signs? by Josephine D. Randall..... | 405 |
| Home Play in Wartime..... | 406 |
| Cycling Can Be Fun for Adults, by Florence Rotermund..... | 409 |
| It's Being Done in Nature Recreation, by Cap'n Bill..... | 411 |
| A Young People's Symphony Orchestra, by Marguerite Crespi Marsh.... | 412 |
| Music at Plummer Park, by Florence Lewis Scott..... | 414 |
| World at Play..... | 415 |
| Ernst Hermann..... | 420 |
| Informal Volley Ball..... | 421 |
| "On to Victory"..... | 423 |
| The Max Straus Center..... | 424 |
| Magazines and Pamphlets..... | 425 |
| New Publications in the Leisure Time Field..... | 427 |

Entered as second-class matter June 12, 1929, at the Post Office at New York, New York,
under Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in
Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized May 1, 1924.

Copyright, 1942, by the National Recreation Association

Extracts from Address

By Ambassador JOHN G. WINANT*

First Vice-President

National Recreation Association

At Durham, England, June 6, 1942

"THE UNITED NATIONS must make the same energetic drive after the war to wipe out the social evils of poverty, sickness and unemployment that they are showing in their all-out effort to defeat fascism. The war must be won on the economic front if it is to be won on the military front. We must move on to a great social offensive if we are to win the war completely.

"Anti-fascism is not a short-term military job. Fascism comes from poverty and unemployment. To crush fascism at its roots we must crush the depression of democracy.

"The United Nations are learning to know each other better as the war goes on. This will lead to a finding of a common ground. The world of today and tomorrow demands courage. We have the courage to defeat poverty as we are defeating fascism and we must translate it into action with the same urgency and united purpose that we have won from our comradeship in this war.

"What we want is not complicated. We have enough technical knowledge and organizing ability to respond to this awakening of the social conscience.

"We have enough courage. We have put it to use. When the war is done the drive for tanks must become a drive for houses. The drive for food to prevent the enemy from starving us must become a drive for food to satisfy the needs of all people of all countries.

"The drive for physical fitness in the forces must become a drive for bringing the death and sickness rates in the whole population down to the lowest possible level. The drive for man power in the war must become a drive for employment to make freedom from want a living reality.

"The drive for all-out war effort by the United Nations must become a drive for an all-out peace effort based on the same cooperation, willingness and sacrifice."

* Because John G. Winant is First Vice-President of the National Recreation Association and has given so much thought and leadership to recreation in New Hampshire and in the nation: because he is so vital a part of the national recreation movement; and because his address has received so much favorable comment, we print extracts from it here—although his subject is not recreation. Ambassador Winant urged before his return to England new and larger tasks for the National Recreation Association when the Second World War has been won and peace established.



JOHN G. WINANT

An editorial by William Rose Benét in *The Saturday Review of Literature*, June 13, 1942, had this to say of John G. Winant:

"One of us Americans has recently had his say in England. . . .

"John G. Winant said in no uncertain terms: 'We must move on to a great social offensive if we are to win the war completely.'

"There is a line for influential writers and editors to take up from now on! 'To crush fascism at its roots we must crush the depression of democracy.'

"For that is what the fighting forces are going to ask of you after this war. That is what we are fighting for. That is the problem that is going to be laid right on your doorstep, later on, and the question that is going to demand an immediate answer.

"As we are proud to have in our House of Representatives a Congressman like the straight-thinking and hard-hitting Eliot of Massachusetts, so we are proud to have for our Ambassador to England another American of high character, old family, and new vision. Winant's speech was as good news to us as Admiral Nimitz's communiqué, which was just about the best news yet! The U. S. has the courage. After this war, political demagogues are not going to avail against the new world that the people want and that the people are going to have. For the common man is doing, and will continue to do, the fighting. The common man in all the United Nations will win the war. That is as sure as that the sun will rise. And then to win the peace is going to involve all the spiritual as well as all the physical courage of which we, as one nation, are capable."

October



Courtesy Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools, Chicago

EARLY ARRIVALS AT THE HALLOWE'EN PARTY

Fuller & Gillette
10-26-42



Print by Gedge Harmon

"OUR harvest being gotten in," runs an old account of the first Thanksgiving, "our Governor sent foure men out fowling, so that we might after a more special manner rejoyce together after we had gathered the fruit of our labours. The foure in one day killed as much fowle as, with a little help beside, served the Company almost a weeke."

The first summer's crop at the Plymouth colony had been good. With the help of friendly Indians the colonists had planted and harvested abundant supplies for the winter. With such good fortune, it seemed only fitting that the governor should set aside a week for feasting in October of that first year in America, 1621.

Since wild turkeys were common in the Massachusetts region, they became the traditional center of the autumn feast. Indians had taught the settlers to cultivate wild corn and this, too, was spread upon the table. Never before had the white men known of the crop.

The legend of maize is recounted by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his "Song of Hiawatha." As the Indian hero was fasting in the woods to bring blessings on his people, he was approached by one, Mondamin, a young man arrayed in green and yellow with "plumes of green falling over his golden hair." The visitor bade Hiawatha wrestle with him, and this they did in three daily contests. Then Mondamin announced unexpectedly that Hiawatha would conquer him the following day. The prophecy came true. Hiawatha buried his challenger with care as he had been bidden. He buried him "where rain might fall upon him and the sun might warm him," tending the grave each day until a small green shoot grew from the ground.

"And before the Summer ended
Stood the maize in all its beauty,
With its shining robes about it
And its long, soft, golden tresses."

The colonists, however, did not enjoy good fortune in all the years that followed. In 1623 a severe drought withered the crops so terribly that a special day of

prayer was set aside in July. Later, when rain had aided the crops and supplies had arrived from England, the governor declared a day of "public Thanksgiving."

Not until 1636 was there a Thanksgiving day as we know it now. At that time church services were held in the morning, followed by feasts in all the homes, "the poorer sort being invited of the richer." The custom spread throughout the colonies until Washington, as President of the new United States, proclaimed the first Thanksgiving to be held on a national scale.

"Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind care and protection of the people of this country, previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors, which he has been pleased to confer upon us."—Excerpt from Presidential Proclamation, October 3, 1789, in "Writings of George Washington," by Jared Sparks.

The observance of Thanksgiving, however, was limited almost exclusively to New England. The

(Continued on page 419)

What They Say About Recreation

"IT WOULD SURPRISE any of us if we realized how much store we unconsciously set by beauty, and how little savour there would be left in life if it were withdrawn. It is the smile on the earth's face, open to all, and needs but the eye to see, the mood to understand."—*John Galsworthy.*

"Yesterday belonged to the worker; tomorrow belongs to the wise users of leisure. In leisure the civilized man makes the most of himself. And in the well-balanced life flourish the finest fruits of American individualism."—*Walter Pitkin.*

"Experience has demonstrated that under the conditions of city life no function of government is more intimately connected with the welfare, health and happiness of the people than that of supervised recreation."—*Hon. T. M. Eaton, Long Beach, California.*

"To 'make others happy' except through liberating their powers and engaging them in activities that enlarge the meaning of life is to harm them. . . . To foster conditions that widen the horizon of others and give them command of their own powers so that they can find their own happiness in their own fashion is the way of social action."—*John Dewey.*

"Recreation sees man as a social animal, and it proceeds on the theory that man does not live simply to work, but that with equal validity he works to live."—*Ott Romney.*

"Regimentation in the field of leisure would run counter to its essential nature, but freedom to follow satisfying leisure-time interests implies a wider range of facilities than the average individual can supply. Social planning and social control must go hand in hand as we build up the leisure-time world of the future."—*Jesse F. Steiner.*

"If the democratic way of life were not based on a moral concept of human relations, it would not be worth preserving. To look on democracy simply as a form of government is to underestimate the fullness of life it nourishes. It is part of the moral wisdom of the ages—men living together in mutual respect and a common destiny."—*Brooks Atkinson.*

"In a democracy, society must recognize that the individual has rights which are guaranteed, and the individual must recognize that he has responsibilities which are not to be evaded."—*Harry Woodburn Chase.*

"It is important that we think of parks as great teachers because it is a universal appreciation of nature—a love of country—that builds a great culture."—*Raymond C. Morrison.*

"Food, clothing, housing, transportation, and recreation are among the most important and fundamental basic goods and services. These are elemental needs and all people must have them in order to maintain any reasonable standard of living which will be adequate to support morale."—*J. R. Sharmon in The Teaching of Physical Education.*

"At the present time those interested in keeping life strong in America need to broadcast the idea that recreation isn't merely playgrounds for children; escape from a world of reality into fantasy; that there is opportunity to use leisure to help meet the social needs of the day."—*V. K. Brown.*

"The values of life which are to sustain our culture, to make us fit for freedom, and to aid us in the enjoyment of democratic living must come from both labor and leisure."—*Eduard C. Lindeman.*

"Take the child as he is and help him to develop so that he can live the fullest, richest life possible in the environment in which he finds himself. That is the purpose of education."—*Jesse M. Shaver in Childhood Education.*

"With feet and legs coming into general use again, and not as yet frozen, the noble art of pedestrianism may be revived. . . . Let's go back to the earth when we can. There are strength and patience in it."—*From The New York Times.*

"Never was healthful and happy recreation more needed in this country. . . . For the young, pastime is a vitamin of life; for older folks it is a tonic against the fever of despair."—*Dr. Henry Van Dyke.*

A Hallowe'en Barn Frolic

By MARY HITCHINGS

A LEERING DOBBIN, a purple cow, MacDonald

Duck, and other barnyard animals swayed to and fro on their flying-ring halters in the big college gymnasium. Below them a double circle of students, faculty members, and service men were singing, "Here we go 'round the

mountain, two by two . . ."¹ "Farmer Brown" was greeting new arrivals, and in the wink of an eye had them singing lustily with the other guests. Dobbin and MacDonald Duck nodded approvingly. Though they were only paper bag animals, they knew a good barn frolic when they saw one.

Clapping in time to the music, everyone sang, "Give us a little motion, two by two . . ." and with verse three imitated the motions of the couple in the center of the ring. "Rise up, sugar, rise!" came with a shout at the end of each verse. The barn frolic was off to a good start, agreed the committee, if its hilarious beginning was any indication.

Next, the pianist struck up "Old MacDonald Had a Farm,"² and the one hundred or more guests seated themselves on the floor around the piano singing with gusto all the way down the list of MacDonald's menagerie. "Shucking of the Corn"³ and "Farmer in the Dell"² were favorites, too.

If you give a similar party, you may want to include rounds such as "Three Blind Mice" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."² They make the stiffest group unbend and are always popular.

After fifteen minutes of singing, four girls on the committee joined right hands in the cen-

The party described in this article is based on a Barn Frolic planned and carried out in New York City by the Recreation Leadership class at Teachers College, Columbia University, under the auspices of the Physical Education Department. With few changes it would make a jolly home or community Hallowe'en party.

ter of the floor to start "Honey, You Can't Love One."⁴ Marching clockwise, they sang:

"Honey, you can't love one
Honey, you can't love one
You can't love one and have any fun
Oh! Honey, you can't love one."

On the second verse, the girls faced about, joined left hands and marched counter-clockwise. Each beckoned to a man to link arms with her. Thus, the four points grew with each verse until the end of the song. Following this, Farmer Brown led everyone in a Grand March,⁴ which ended with all seating themselves on the floor or on the chairs ranged along the walls.

If you are planning a party to be given in a private home, the Grand March could become "Follow the Leader." Invade attic and cellar, front yard and garden, if the weather permits. Masqueraders may march by a previously chosen jury, who will award prizes for, say, the cleverest and "corniest" costumes.

"Musical elbows," a novel form of musical

chairs, came next. Twelve girls were chosen for "chairs." They lined up one behind the other, every other girl with left hand on hip, the others with right arms akimbo. Thirteen men were asked to volunteer for this game. To a march tune, they walked around the human chairs, and when the music stopped each linked arms with one of the girls. The man left without a partner, of course, was out. As in musical chairs, one "elbow" was removed each time to leave one less than the number of players.



Print by Gedge Harmon

1. All numbers refer to bibliography.

An unusual potato race called for another group of thirteen volunteers. Forming a ring around a pile of twelve potatoes, they faced the center and circled in time to the music. When it stopped, everyone made a mad rush to grab a potato. The one who emerged from the scramble empty-handed had to drop out. This continued as in "musical elbows" until there were two left, each attempting to get the one remaining potato.

Any number, of course, can play both games so long as there is one more player than "elbows" or potatoes. Toy animals would make unusual prizes for the winners.

A game that brought shrieks of laughter from the onlookers was the "bull in the china shop" obstacle race. Alternating gymnasium mats and horses arranged in two rows were the obstacles. An exceptionally pretty girl was asked to stand at the head of each line. Two men volunteered and each was blindfolded with a paper bag bull mask. The girls were given cowbells of different pitch and each "bull" stumbled about in an attempt to follow the sound of the bell as the girl in his row walked in and out among the obstacles ringing it. The "bull" reaching the end of his row first was the winner. Obstacles for a smaller party held in a hall or home could be furniture alternated with pillows, boxes, etc.

Everyone had a chance to catch his breath while a magician entertained with cut paper and string tricks.⁵ A quiet game such as bobbing for apples by groups of volunteers could have been substituted. During the happy chatter that followed the magician's performance, Farmer Brown rang his cowbell and announced that faculty members were serving cider and doughnuts, pointing out the long serving table set up at one end of the "barn." It was decorated with colorful autumn leaves. At the opposite end of the room, a panel made of bright vegetables and fruit cut from construction paper and pasted on a large sheet of white cardboard flanked by corn sheaves added a festive note. Everyone was drinking one more cup of cider and munching doughnuts when the strains of "Turkey in the Straw"⁶ were heard above the chatter and laughter.

On a small table stage two buffoons—a farmer and his wife—were singing "Swing your honey, don't you fall," dramatizing each call with their ridiculously tiny bodies and big heads.

"Now take that lady by the hair
And around that lady over there.
Into the center with a whoa haw gee
And 'round that gent from Tennessee."

So great was the applause that the buffoons danced "Darling Nellie Grey"⁴ and "Farmer in the Dell."¹

A buffoon stage and act are easily prepared. All you need is a table for a stage and a curtain with slits for the head and hands of each performer. Sew small sleeves, tight at the wrist, to the hand slits. Attach suitably dressed, armless cardboard or puppet bodies with flexible legs to the curtain below the head slits and between the hand slits. The performers can move the feet of the puppets and make them dance by means of strings attached to the sleeves and to the feet of the puppets. A hat or wig, make-up, and perhaps a musical instrument complete the props.

"When the Frost Is on the Pumpkin" or "Little Orphan Annie," by James Whitcomb Riley, are good Hallowe'en recitations and might be part of the buffoons' program. If important personages or faculty members can be prevailed upon to take part, it will add zest to the show.

Following the buffoons' example, the guests swung into sets for an hour of country dancing. Soon gay groups of three—a man with a girl on each side—had formed a large circle facing clockwise. All joined in singing "Oh, the Old Gray Mare, she ain't what she used to be," as each group stepped right with right foot, right with left foot, then kicked left with the right foot.⁷ Farmer Brown called directions until the steps had become familiar to all. More country dances followed with time out now and then for cider.

When the party was over Farmer Brown bid the guests good-bye. "Goodnight, goodnight . . . had a grand time" echoed back to the planning committee gathered in the gymnasium for a post-party huddle. All agreed that their objective of getting everyone to participate in some party activity had a grand time," echoed back to the planning the guests in good spirits. The anticipated shortage of men had been minimized by the omission of games and dances requiring partners. There had been active and quiet games—something that would appeal to each guest. Any lingering formality or stiffness had been dispelled by having everyone sit on the floor whenever feasible.

After some discussion, the committee decided that precise timing was the key to the frolic's success. The party, carefully planned to last from seven-thirty to ten o'clock, had not dragged, had ended on time, and no event had been omitted for lack of time. Service men were able to stay

until the end and still had ample time to get back to their quarters.

Dobbin blinked a sleepy eye at MacDonald Duck as the gymnasium was being set to rights, and muttered, "Now, that's what I'd call a real party—a little more horseplay plus a few oats would have made it perfect!" A moment later he was added to the pile of discarded decorations.

More Party Suggestions

A Barn Frolic such as the one described is an ideal celebration for "All Hallows Even," since our modern Hallowe'en is an outgrowth of early English and Roman harvest festivals. This Teachers College party is especially suitable for a large group, but may be adapted to the entertainment of a smaller number of guests in a school or private home. A barn, of course, would be an ideal setting, if a suitable one is available in your community.

Posters and Invitations. If you are planning a community Hallowe'en party, use colorful posters to spread the news. Cut orange paper in the shape of a barn and illustrate with a scarecrow or corn sheaves. Paper bag animal heads in themselves make engaging announcements. As an eye-catching device, tie a cowbell or jack-o'-lantern to an arm projecting from a burnt-edged wrapping paper poster.

Display posters wherever the public congregates—in stores, schools, libraries. If service men are to be guests of honor, tack one on the USO bulletin board. Supplement these with mimeographed invitations for door-to-door delivery, and you will find that your Hallowe'en Barn Frolic is a "must" on everyone's calendar.

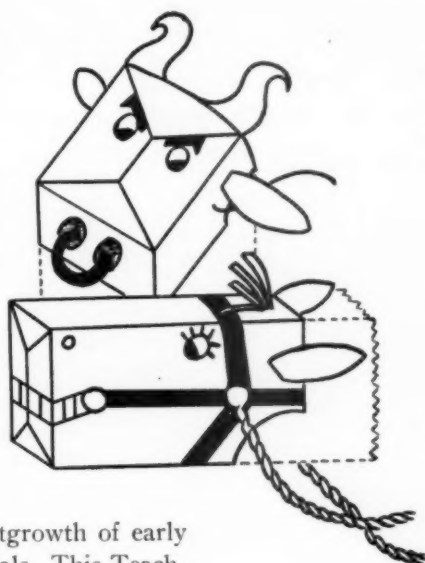
Individual invitations sent through the mail are best for small home parties. These may be cut in Hallowe'en designs from stiff orange paper or, if you wish to make more elaborate invitations, folders may be decorated with spatter prints⁸ of farm animals or Hallowe'en patterns. Print them in black ink. Here is a sample invitation in verse:

Come frolic, come frolic
On All Hallows Eve!
From eight to eleven*
Farmer Brown* will receive
Hillbillies and farmers
And charming milkmaids!
Come frolic, come frolic
Till the Harvest Moon fades!

R.S.V.P.

*Insert proper hours
Insert host's name

(Wear any "barnyard" or Hallowe'en costume. Prizes for cleverest and "corniest" costumes)



Whether used as decorations or masks, these paper bag animal heads give grotesque charm to a Hallowe'en Barn Frolic or Masquerade

Decorations. To greet the guests, set near the door a broom-and-coat-hanger scarecrow dressed in shirt and overalls. He should hold a cowbell for guests to ring before entering. A paper bag cow with a bell around her neck would serve the same purpose.

Barnyard animal heads add a delightfully humorous note to your decorations and are not difficult to make.⁹ The base is a large brown paper bag. Either its broad side or end may be the animal's face. Features may be painted with bright colored poster paint or cut from colored construction paper and glued in place. Projecting beak, horns, or tongue give a more realistic touch than painted features. Green construction paper or crepe paper cut in shreds makes a glamorous mane for Dobbin or whiskers for Billy Goat Gruff. Bossie, the purple cow, ("I'd rather see than be one!") will bring many a chortle from your guests. Fasten the "live-stock" to chandeliers, curtains, and pictures if the party is given in a hall or private home.

Bull masks for the obstacle race are, of course, made in the same fashion. Be sure to use large bags that will slip easily over the head. If you prefer, cut them to fit the face (see illustration at top of page) and tie them on.

Traditional jack-o'-lanterns, corn sheaves, ghosts, and witches are always suitable, but perhaps should not predominate at a barn frolic—even on Hallowe'en. Originate and carry out your own decoration ideas, since planning and making decorations are as much fun as the party itself.

Additional Games.¹⁰ "A Bean Says" is a good pre-party game for a masquerade party. When each "unknown" arrives, give him as many beans as there are guests to use as payment to those who guess his identity. For example, a hillbilly might accost a milkmaid saying, "A bean says you are Ellen Jones." If the guess is correct, Ellen Jones gives the hillbilly a bean; if wrong, the hillbilly must pay the milkmaid a bean. Play until all have

(Continued on page 419)

The Children's Hour

By MYRTLE F. PATTERSON

Acting Superintendent
Recreation Department
Lynchburg, Virginia

"THE CHILDREN'S HOUR, on every Saturday at this time over WLVA and sponsored by the Recreation Department of the city of Lynchburg." Heard every Saturday at twelve o'clock noon since 1931, this announcement has become a familiar one to WLVA's audience of 128,000 listeners. Starting when the station first went on the air, the Children's Hour has been an uninterrupted feature and, according to a recent poll, the most popular program broadcast on Saturdays.

Each of the fifteen playgrounds of Lynchburg, Virginia, in turn puts on a half hour program, and every playground broadcasts on an average of four times a year. The Saturday broadcast is entirely a talent program, consisting of short one-act plays, songs, dances, recitations, and musical numbers. When in April, 1941,

the tenth anniversary of the Children's Hour was celebrated, many of the radio participants in the early programs—some of them married now

with children taking part in current programs—were featured.

In addition to the regular Saturday program, there is a playground newscast each Wednesday afternoon from 5:00 to 5:15. This broadcast takes on the aspects of a Walter Winchell news program, with a reporter from two playgrounds appearing each week to give news of playground activities and happenings in the community around the playgrounds.

WLVA has cooperated wholeheartedly with other phases of Lynchburg's recreation program. The entire season's schedule of games played last year in the Civic Club's Softball League was broad-

(Continued on page 422)

Representatives of Lynchburg's playgrounds who last year took part in the broadcast of the Children's Hour Christmas program



Where Adults Are Not Admitted— Unless Accompanied by a Child



Courtesy Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly

By
RUTH DAUCHY
"Zooperintendent"
Children's Zoo

"No grown-up may enter this wonderful story-book-land-come-true unless escorted by a child. Then—just to put you in your proper place—the admission fee for children is 15 cents; for adults 10 cents."

LOW BRIDGE! Watch your heads, please! Watch your heads—"

You may well heed the warning for you are entering the Children's Zoo (in the Bronx Zoo, New York City) and if you are more than four feet tall you must forego your adult dignity and belie your waistline and bend down (sister). The only entrance is beneath a bridge with a four foot clearance and everything within is designed for a child's eye view. Once you have successfully maneuvered the low bridge and straightened your head, you will find yourself in a miniature world of children's story books come to life.

Beneath the low hanging branches of an old horn-beam tree Pussy's in the Well, complete with Bell and family of three or more, to greet all visitors.

A large shell contains a fish tank, originally designed to hold guppies and tropical fish but the mechanics of maintaining an even temperature in an

outdoor tank became too involved so the guppies sublet to gold fish—common garden variety.

The Piglet's House is next and most unique from an architectural standpoint. There is not one straight line in its whole construction. The result is a low white house with a slanting roof, shingled and sketchily patched with old tin signs, with yawning crooked windows and doors and a side porch, all surrounded by a low board fence and a rickety-packety atmosphere. It houses three baby pigs who have to be bottle-fed (a ceremony in which the small customers are allowed to participate by holding the bottles—to their great delight). These babies remain so for an embarrassingly short time and have to be traded in on the average of every six weeks, lest they outgrow their surroundings.

After Piglet's House comes Noah's Ark, in dry dock. This exhibit is one of the most popular with the children for they can climb the gangplank,

This story of the Children's Zoo at Bronx Park, New York City, appeared in the May 1942 issue of the *Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly*, and is reprinted in *Recreation* through the courtesy of the *Quarterly*.

take a turn about the deck, feed the animals in the big central cage (who are a conglomeration of Central and South American mammals, unique in that they can all live together in peace and harmony), and best of all the children can "steer the boat"

by pushing the long handled stern rudder. Another point in the Ark's favor is the fact that Mother and Father must stay below as the gangplank was not constructed for adult size, and by the time the Junior member of the family descends they are fairly seething with curiosity to know "What's up there? What animals did you see?" and Junior has the privilege of telling *them* this time—if he cares to.

Kanga's House is next, a bamboo bomba with a bright blue post fence behind which Kanga and Roo, two young and very importunate kangaroos, beg for food by poking their small paws out between the posts.

Then comes the Rabbit Hill, surrounded by a low red snow fence with spaces between for the tiniest child to peek through and poke fingers in to pet the bunnies. Here ten large rabbits scurry around the hill and in and out the front door, appropriately door-carded B'r'er Rabbit in large letters. It was hoped that the Rabbit Hill could be kept green and verdant and artistically landscaped with various kinds of plants, but all intentions were laid waste by the voracity of the inhabitants whose taste was, unfortunately, all in their mouths.

Up a nearby staircase marked private is the office of the Children's Zoo. This house in the trees serves as a headquarters for the six girl

"The fact that the children may actually play with and feed the animals," says the author, "seems first to account for the popularity of the Children's Zoo, and the second appeal seems to be the charm of the setting. In its first year of operation the Children's Zoo has entertained 230,000 children and parents — and there's always room for more."

attendants as well as the Zoo-perintendent's office where the routine business of ordering food, animals, repairs, signs, and so forth is transacted. The downstairs portion of this house serves as food room and store room and is filled with cages for the sec-

ond and third shift of handleable animals who are placed in the play ring in relays during the day.

The play ring is a high point for the parents who stand by and watch as well as for the children who climb in to pet the animals. A straw-filled circle like a small circus ring, painted red and blue, it stands in the center of the Children's Zoo and is always occupied by a number of pet animals: kittens, goats, chickens, piglets, sheep, lambs, ducks, and occasionally a special pet like a kinkajou, a small marmoset, or a baby llama. These animals are changed at frequent intervals during the day to guard against wear and tear on their nervous systems. The ring is presided over by one of the girl attendants who sees that proper introductions are made and amicable relations maintained between animals and children.

Ferdinand the Bull (Junior Size) stands at the foot of the office stairs beneath a beach umbrella on hot summer days with his flowers placed on a shelf behind him discreetly out of reach.

A mother donkey and her baby, currently Hilda and Hildagarde, live in the next enclosure, also beneath a gay red and white striped awning.

The Duck Pond, shaded by a low hanging bush, is painted blue in a circle of bricks and surrounded by a white pebble yard where white ducks and yellow ducklings swim about and sun them-

Irwin, the always popular llama, is fed by one of the Zoo's daring young visitors



Courtesy Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly

selves. The duck population swells perceptibly in number after Easter when many an Easter duckling finds the atmosphere of the Children's Zoo more attractive than a New York apartment. Their house is a blue two-family bungalow with a rattan roof, shared with two disdainful geese, Suki and Lucy—who prefer the ring to the pond—and the other half shelters a large flock of feathery-legged cochin bantams ("chickens with pants on, Mommy!")

Another two-family house adjacent to the ducks and chickens contains Irwin, the llama, an inveterate purveyor of hair ribbons and animal food—not to mention an occasional nibble of passing fur jackets, mink or rabbit equally palatable; and Baa Baa the Black Sheep.

Chateau Guinea is an elaborate miniature castle with moat, drawbridge, and courtyard where an ever-increasing family of guinea pigs resides in royal splendor under a coat of arms which says "Chateau Guinea—we are small but many."

An oval racetrack holds the Hare and the Tortoise, the latter a huge old Galapagos Tortoise whose speed is only exceeded by his appetite.

The Mouse Clock is a grandfather clock with a wheel in its face and Hic, Dic, and Doc, the three white mice, run up a tiny wire ramp around the pendulum into the wheel which revolves in the face of the clock as they take their exercise.

Punch and Judy are two capricious goats who reside in Billy Whisker's House, a bamboo shelter with a picturesque half roof of rattan and bamboo.

In his gaily painted "Special Feature" cage Lord Hol-ger-noz of the North American Skunks (erstwhile Lord Lentherrick but title retracted for commercial reasons) holds a horrible fascination for his public, no matter how often said public is reassured that he is thoroughly de-scented.

A miniature Old Mill in the center of the Children's Zoo is the home of Sir Anthony, a frisky chipmunk who exercises violently, to the delight of the children, in a squirrel wheel which forms the water wheel of the mill.

Too Wit and Too Woo, a pair of little screech owls, in their small glass fronted house, hear more than they speak. Penny, a tame red rooster, Deacon, a talking crow, Mr. and Mrs. Turkey Gobbler, and Boots, a fat ram, wander about at will and are shameless beggars of animal food, and ever under foot.

No popcorn or peanuts or candy are allowed and specially prepared pellets of food are sold in 5c packages to eliminate digestive troubles among

the animals. If an innocent three- or four-year old eats one of these pellets under any misapprehension, as occasionally happens, the attendants can safely assure the worried parents that no harm can possibly come of it.

A registered nurse is in attendance at the Children's Zoo at all times. The First Aid Quarters are in a gay little house with a chair in the shape of a rabbit for small patients, whose most prevalent complaints are bruised knees and elbows. Large patients rarely require attention except for the occasional absent-minded adult who forgets to duck going under the bridge.

Each child is given a small souvenir medallion on departure as a reminder of his visit. On one side of the medal is a picture of Burma, the baby elephant on the Riding Animal Track; on the other is Suki, the Goose, exhibit A of the Children's Zoo.

Some interesting comments on this novel zoo appeared in an article in the August 1941 issue of *Parents' Magazine*. A few quotations follow:

"Apartment house parents who have felt keen regret because they could not surround their children with household pets, due to lack of space, can partly remedy that condition now that the gay and highly imaginative Children's Zoo in Bronx Park is a reality. For this story-book zoo within a zoo has its own collection of twenty-four animals, its own zoo-superintendent, the charming Miss Ruth Dauchy, and a staff of attractive and helpful young assistants.

"This zoo-let is built inside the pony tract west of the elephant house. It was designed and executed by Harry Sweeny, Jr., assistant general director of the Zoological Park and the Aquarium. A low bridge carrying the pony tract spans the entrance, and the arch under the bridge is just high enough for a child of eight or nine years to walk through upright. . . . Only 500 persons are admitted at one time in order that all of them may see and play with the animals without undue confusion or fatigue to the pets.

"Of course there is a problem connected with the Children's Zoo—the youngsters hate to leave. Promises of return visits are usually extracted before they consent to go home. Sometimes the problem is graver, as when a little ten-year-old tells his mother he will never be satisfied until he has a llama of his own; or when a little eight-year-old fails to understand why she can't replace her doll house with a guineapig castle."

"Make and Mend It"

THE REPLACEMENT of athletic equipment is becoming increasingly difficult because of a shortage of raw materials. It is more important than ever before that precautions be taken to prolong the useful life of athletic equipment.

Leather Goods. The most common causes of trouble with leather goods are high temperature and excessive moisture. There are three types of accumulations which form on leather, only one of which is harmful. This is a green mold which will rot leather.

In order to prevent green mold rot, leather articles should be kept in a cool, dry place. When wet, leather articles should be dried immediately, but the action should not be forced. The article should be dried at normal room temperature without the use of artificial heat or sunlight. If repeated wetting and drying are encountered, there will be a tendency for a hardness to develop. This can be overcome by applying Neatsfoot oil or a light paraffin (mineral) oil to the leather surface. Mersolite-P is an excellent commercial leather dressing.

Leather that has become soiled should be cleaned with clear, cool water and saddle soap only. The saddle soap should be applied with a moist cloth or sponge. Rub the leather until dirt is loosened. It should then be wiped clean and briskly rubbed by hand or with a clean cloth.

Inflated Equipment. Inflated balls should be stored inflated, but not at normal pressure. This is particularly true of last-built or molded balls. They should not be folded or crushed.

When inflating a ball with rubber core valve, always moisten the needle, preferably with glycerin. If the needle is moistened with the mouth, remove the moisture from the needle after using.

Always use a pressure gauge to insure correct inflation. Overinflation should be avoided as this materially affects the

In the *Boys' Handy Book of Sports, Games and Experiments* published in 1884, a number of chapters are devoted to the activities of the "Make and Mend Club." This has led to the suggestion that we have in *Recreation* a "Make and Mend" Column to which our readers will contribute information about substitutes they have devised for materials not now available, methods they have discovered to prolong the life of equipment, and novel handcraft articles they have made. The success of such a column will depend on you! However simple and elementary your contribution may seem to you to be, don't hesitate to send it in.

rubber material which is no longer serviceable should be turned in for salvage. Every scrap of rubber should be saved.

The chief enemies of rubber are direct sunlight, heat, grease and oil. With regard to sunlight and heat, all that can be done is to minimize the duration of exposure. Grease and oil should be removed with soap and water. Never use dry cleaning fluids on rubber goods.

Badminton and Tennis Rackets. Badminton and tennis rackets should be kept in a cool dry place. If presses are not available, rackets should be hung.

Ping-Pong. Loosen nets when not in use. Remove dents in ping-pong balls by pouring boiling water over them.

Shuffleboard. Keep wood floor court waxed to reduce wear on floor and discs.

Tennis, Volleyball and Badminton Nets. In damp areas, tarred nets are best. All nets should be carefully preserved, as they are increasingly difficult to obtain. They should be taken in during bad weather, kept dry and repaired at the first indication of damage. When not in use, the nets should be loosened to relieve tension.

Baseballs and Softballs. A single broken stitch should be repaired. Covers should be cleaned and kept dry. Take in bases when not in use.

Athletic Shoes. All athletic shoes are subjected to dampness due to perspiration, rain or snow. This tends to remove the tan-nage oil from the leather,

(Continued on page 420)

As the initial contribution to the "Make and Mend" Column, we present material appearing in an article, "Care and Maintenance of Athletic Equipment," which was published in the August 1942 issue of the bulletin entitled *Notes on Morale Activities*, prepared for Unit Commanders and Special Service Officers by the Special Service Division of the War Department.

"Over There"

"THERE ARE only a few of us here but all our girls are good troupers. We travel many miles at night in bad weather over bumpy roads to put on a dance. As we gather round the pot-bellied stoves in the half-barrel huts and see how glad the men are to talk to us, we realize that there is a place for us here. We supply the needed link between the soldier and his home."

This is Jane Goodell speaking on a special Red Cross broadcast from Iceland. Jane Goodell is a former New York recreation worker, a member of one of the first task forces assigned to Red Cross duty overseas.

She and her co-workers were in the vanguard of a steady procession of professionally trained recreation workers which has gone to far-distant lands from national headquarters of the American Red Cross in Washington since America's entrance into the war. Coming from all parts of the country, they clear up their desks, bid the home folk good-bye "for the duration," and are off on a long journey to an "unknown destination."

The first stop is National Headquarters for a brief orientation course. No matter how many academic degrees adorn one's name this preliminary training is essential.

Next is a probationary assignment to a military post in this country for practical experience in well-established Red Cross recreation centers under supervision of the resident staff. Here they absorb not only the atmosphere of an armed camp and learn its lore, but they undergo a process of physical hardening as well. They are still "rookies" just like their newly inducted brothers in khaki.

This period of breaking-in varies. It is cut short when orders come from headquarters to report at a certain port at a certain time for embarkation. From then on, like the troops, their movements are a military secret. Not until they



A sailor from West Virginia "swings" it with an English girl at the Washington Club which has been established in London by the Red Cross

By LORA KELLY

arrive safely at their overseas stations can their whereabouts be disclosed.

The Recreation Program

The general Red Cross recreation program is of a three-fold nature—hospital, task force and club, according to Mr. Virgil Dahl, Director of Recreation, Red Cross Services to the Armed Forces.

"The oldest of these is that of medically approved recreation for service hospitals, dating back to the first World War," he says. "This has been in continuous operation throughout the years in general army and navy hospitals, expanded or diminished according to the needs. It has furnished the foundations on which the other two have been

built and adapted to the present global wartime conditions.

"Long before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Red Cross recreation workers were on duty in the station hospitals in the training camps all over the country. They were an integral part of the station hospital staffs functioning under the supervision of the assistant field director and cooperating with the medical social workers in behalf of convalescent patients. Fully a year before the country's advent into the war these recreation workers in the new training camps were setting up their improvised theatrical stages and game tables in vacant hospital wards. The seventy Red Cross recreation buildings, now a reality, were still in the blue print stage. The resourcefulness of these pioneers was often severely tested not only by lack of equipment but lack of floor space.

"In the course of the rapidly expanding war preparations these material adjuncts to the program were forthcoming to match the spirit of helpfulness which had been there all the time.

"Some of the first draft recreation workers who were on duty all through the early stages of defense training have gone overseas to undertake

another pioneer experience of setting up the recreation programs in a foreign land under entirely different conditions."

Despite the rapidly changing picture of events, Mr. Dahl observes that certain fundamentals remain unchanged. "Whether recreation workers are bustling about hospital wards with games for patients, assembling state properties for an amateur show, or running a bridge tournament in a service club, one significant fact stands out in crystalline clearness—they are meeting a need," he declared.

"Whether they are on duty in chill climates of the north or in a palm-shaded hut in the tropics, they bring to the job experience, training, resourcefulness, a sense of humor, and a thorough understanding of soldier psychology. In the hospital and task force they follow pretty much the same pattern as their co-workers in the training and replacement camps on the home shores, with such differentiations as are expedient because of climate, local customs and military necessity."

Obviously there is a wide gap between the entertainment tastes of the husky young Yank on leave and the convalescent soldier in a wheel chair. The former wants action—plenty of it. The lad with his leg in a cast wants a quiet game of cards or something to read.

Service clubs are the answer to the able-bodied Yank's leisure problem.

When Joe Is on Furlough

In response to a definite need, twelve clubs and two recreation centers are now functioning in such widely separated parts of the globe as London, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Australia, New Caledonia, and other islands of the Pacific. Here's how they operate:

Private Joe Doaks has a pass and a forty-eight hour furlough. He's a member of the American task forces "over there" or "down under" and he's a stranger in a strange land, even if the language of the natives is a reasonable facsimile of his own.

Let's tune in on Joe as he checks into the Washington Club in London, for example. The British clubs, directed by Mr. G. Ott Romney, are typical of the new centers elsewhere, with variations according to climate and other local conditions.

Private Joe steps up to the desk where he is greeted by a pleasant American voice, "Glad to see you, Soldier, what can we do for you?"

From then on Joe's only problem is a choice of

entertainment fare. First, he is assigned to sleeping quarters. Maybe it is a room shared with another buddy, or a comfortable dormitory bed. In any event, he'll have a good long sleep, if that's what he wants, undisturbed by reveille, alarm clocks or commands of the "top kick."

Chances are, though, that Joe will be up bright and early so he won't miss anything. Downstairs he finds an honest-to-goodness American breakfast awaiting him. After he has had his fill of pancakes, cereal or whatever happens to be on the menu, he's primed to go sightseeing. Out in the lobby there's a big sign that reads "Leave and Information Bureau." Here's where arrangements can be made to do the town in the accepted tourist fashion. In case he doesn't want to go alone there's a big map of the United States dotted with little flags. Each flag has a name on it. That enables him to see at a glance who is among those present from his home town in the States. Well, if here isn't Bill Jones! Joe didn't even know he was in the service. There's the big lug over at the snack bar right this minute!

Reunions of this sort are not uncommon, and off they go to see everything from the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the Marble Arch to Mme. Tussand's wax works, and maybe a few other undesigned spots along the Thames.

Eventually Joe will wander back to the club with the Red Cross sign invitingly conspicuous over the doorway. Here he can flop down in a well-stuffed club chair and take a look at the latest magazines and newspapers.

But if he wants action, that's on tap too. What used to be a bar or a private ballroom before the Red Cross took over the hotel is now a gymnasium. There's plenty going on in this quarter. The club director or his assistant in charge is a man carefully selected by the Red Cross because of his experience in group recreation, and his record for successful supervision of athletics. Many of these men have been college football or basketball coaches and understand to the last gym shoe lace what it takes to put over a good athletic program.

But this isn't a man's world, by any means. There are real American girls in the picture too, and if anybody wants to play an exciting game of badminton or table tennis, Joe doesn't have to depend on other soldiers for an interesting partner or opponent. They are the recreation workers who are talented muscians and song leaders, skilled

in amateur dramatics. They can get a bridge tournament going in no time flat, settle a disputed point in a chess game, or take a hand themselves if there aren't enough players around. It is their job, however, not to exploit their own talents as performers, but to bring out the skills of others.

In addition to all this, these workers promote social affairs to which local girls are invited. In the London clubs the feminine uniformed forces of His Majesty, such as the WAAFS and the WRENS are frequent guests, to the delight of everybody. Introducing an attractive English lassie to the joys of hot dogs, "cokes," or hamburgers, readily available at the snack bar, or teaching her a few jitterbug steps to a swing tune from a juke box, is rated very highly as a fur-lough pastime by the Yanks on leave.

When the need for American recreation centers plus bed and board became apparent in these areas, the

War Department called upon Red Cross, the only civilian agency operating within the confines of a military post, either at home or abroad, to sponsor the project. As a result of an exchange of correspondence between War Secretary Henry L. Stimson and Red Cross Chairman Norman H. Davis, an agreement was reached whereby sleeping accommodations and meals would be provided at a nominal cost but everything else would be free.

The War Department was insistent that the food and lodging be paid for by the soldier. The Secretary wrote that this was customary practice in similar clubs of the allied nations, and that it helped to maintain the service man's self-respect to pay for his bed and breakfast. The charge for these accommodations was set at fifty cents a night for bed and breakfast, and twenty cents for each

of the other meals in the British Isles. These rates are below cost and the

(Continued on page 425)

Girls in the uniformed British services respond gladly when invited by Red Cross workers to lend a hand with the entertainment of American soldiers and sailors



Square Dances for Soldiers

By RUTHALEE HOLLOWAY JORGENSEN

Assistant Superintendent
Recreation Department
Lincoln, Nebraska

SQUARE dancing was introduced to the soldiers coming to the Muny Game Courts as a series of three instruction sessions, on the theory that it was advisable to start with the fundamentals for the benefit of those who had not formerly engaged in square dancing. In attendance, also, were the men who knew and enjoyed square dancing. Noticeable from the first was one who seemed very proficient in the art. He was discovered to be R. B. Tefferteller, formerly a recreation representative of Amalgamated Clothing Company, who conducted folk and square dancing at the National Recreation Congress in Pittsburgh in

Lincoln, Nebraska, has a novel recreation area known as the "Muny Game Courts," consisting of the floor of a former skating pond converted into a concrete surface on which courts have been marked off for such games as shuffleboard, volleyball, archery, table tennis, and badminton. This area has been prepared especially for the use of the service men, and every Saturday night during the past summer it became an outdoor dancing floor where square dancing sponsored by the Lincoln Recreation Board was a very popular feature of the recreation program.

1938. Corporal Tefferteller, with his Tennessee version of square dancing, became greatly in demand at all later square dances.

After the first three dances the soldiers were do-si-doin' like veterans, and interest seemed to indicate continuance of the dances. From twenty-five to thirty-five sets were always dancing on the 90' x 360' floor. Added attraction, of course, was the fact that "Lincolnettes," an organization of Lincoln girls interested in acting as social

partners for the service men, were in attendance at the dances. Moreover, they arrived an hour be-

(Continued on page 424)



Courtesy Lincoln Newspapers, Inc.

Decatur Doubles Its Recreation Tax

A FEW MONTHS ago the Playground and Recreation Board of Decatur, Illinois, placed the following request before the City Council:

"As a result of the war the Playground and Recreation program of the city of Decatur faces a crisis. The very substantial assistance which has been received from WPA is being curtailed, and the need for public recreation is greater than ever.

"We have depended upon WPA for more than one-half of the employees to operate 15 summer playgrounds (7 lighted for evening play), 10 school gymnasiums, 6 community centers, 16 school playground and building programs, 27 special events, such as Christmas and Hallowe'en community celebrations, and other miscellaneous services.

"With the opportunity for employment in private industry increasing, capable leaders who have served on the recreation program have found other work, with the result that WPA has fewer people available for employment, and those who remain are being shifted into more direct war activity.

"At the same time the great increase in the population due to the location of war industries in our vicinity, restricted opportunity for travel and less home supervision of children due to women in industry create very serious problems in our city. Wherever these problems have arisen in our own cities and in England opportunity for wholesome recreation has been recognized as a basic need to preserve and stimulate the spirit of the people and keep down lawlessness and juvenile delinquency. Already in our own community juvenile delinquency is showing a tendency to increase.

"Without additional funds we shall have to retrench. This would be unfortunate even under normal conditions; it would be nothing short of tragic, faced as we are with the problems of war industry. To close four or five playgrounds would deprive citizens in those neighborhoods of services they have as much right to expect as those in any other neighborhood, and so far as the Playground and Recreation Board is concerned no one playground is any more important than another.

"The tax which was voted in 1936 has netted about \$21,000.00 per year, 35¢ per capita, most of which has been spent for three full-time employees and forty part-time employees. WPA has supplied more than twice as much money, which has provided about sixty employees.

"Since the playground tax was voted the Legislature has in-

By a vote of 9 to 1, the citizens of Decatur, Illinois, protect the recreational gains made to date

creased the amount which may be levied for this purpose from 2/3 of a mill to 1 1/3 mills on each dollar of assessed value, providing the increase is authorized by a referendum.

"Therefore, believing that the maintenance of our playground and recreation program, particularly under present conditions, is of vital importance to the men, women and children of the city of Decatur, we respectfully request your honorable Body to call a special election at an early date, to provide an opportunity for the citizens of Decatur to vote on the proposition of increasing the playground and recreation tax as authorized by law."

Inexpensive Election Plan

Responding to the request, the City Council ordered a special election to be held Tuesday, July 21, 1942, for the purpose of voting on recreational tax increase. The election was planned and carried out at a minimum cost. Four voting districts were set up for the election, instead of using the usual thirty-seven precinct polls. The voting place was a public school in each district. The polls were open from 6 A. M. to 5 P. M. The only cost was the printing of the ballots. For the first time in a city vote, judges and clerks agreed to and did endorse their pay checks and return them to the city.

Practical Outline of Referendum

The following outline was used and found effective:

I. Newspapers

Herald (morning daily); *Review* (evening daily); *Decatur Advertiser* (weekly); *Weekly News*.

II. Endorsements

A. By letter

President of National Recreation Association
Director of Recreation, Federal Security Agency,
Washington, D. C.

President, State PTA, Chicago, Illinois

Director of Public Welfare, Springfield, Illinois

Commissioner of Public Health
and Safety, Decatur, Illinois

Superintendent of Health of the
City of Decatur, Illinois

Publicity Chairman, Ministerial Association, Decatur, Illinois

President, Ministerial Association,
Decatur, Illinois

Chief of Police, City of Decatur

The story of Decatur's successful recreational tax increase referendum, as told to Mary Graham Andrews by Wayne Gill, Superintendent of Public Recreation, is presented in the hope that its publication will help other cities which are planning similar campaigns.

- President, City P. T. A. Council
- Priest, Decatur Parish
- Superintendent Schools
- County Judge, Macon County
- President, Community Chest
- Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Macon County
- Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly
- Retail Trade Committee, Decatur Association of Commerce
- B. Daily stories, editorial page, sports page, society page, town topics, and special feature stories.
- III. Speaking engagements
 - At playgrounds, churches, industries and stores, organizations and governing groups.
- IV. Organizations
 - A. Playground and Recreation Board (5 members)
 - B. Over-All Advisory Group (16 members)
 - C. Campaign Committee
 - District chairman, block workers, and recreation club leaders
 - D. Play leaders
- V. Commercial advertisements (inserts — recreational appeal in "ads")
- VI. Special amplified messages to large audiences
 - Games, movies, play night activities
- VII. Exhibits
- VIII. Letters of appeal to —
 - Ministers, organizations, governing groups, University
- IX. Signs and posters
- X. Handbills
- XI. Telephone committee
- XII. Meetings
- XIII. Election Day
 - A. Transportation
 - B. Junior leaders
 - C. House canvass
 - D. Telephone committees
 - E. Poll workers
 - F. Clerks and judges
 - G. Playground parades
- XIV. Miscellaneous
 - A. Pledge cards
 - B. Novelty transportation
 - C. Use of bulletin board (police headquarters)
 - D. Personalized notes of thanks
 - E. Bringing play expert to Decatur
 - F. Personal contacts
 - G. Papers written by recreation staff

Public Relations

Favorable public opinion for the referendum was brought about by a very definite understanding with the executives of the daily and weekly newspapers. A comprehensive outline was organized to interpret the work done, the recreation services and benefits available to the citizenry. From this

a definite program was set upon for each paper. The kind of material written and offered met the different policies and different methods of presenting news for each paper.

Two copies of the outline for publicity desired were taken to the newspaper each week. The editors were called in and reasons for and objections against the proposed articles were discussed. Suggestions were wide open. Great frankness and much help came from these editors, who were "tops" in creating public opinion.

The method adopted was to prepare daily stories on regular news, to hook regular news with other vital current news, and then to increase in scope by features, regular news, novelties and pictures until publicity climaxed on election day.

The publicity was continuous. Cooperation was splendid from the special departments. The editorials were most effective. Sixty-five articles, inclusive of regular news, and twenty-one pictures appeared from July 1 to July 22 in the two daily and two weekly papers.

Endorsements and Contacts

Personal contacts were important in obtaining letters of endorsement. These interviews were used to impart not only information but enthusiasm for the referendum. Ideas for the campaign were solicited. Endorsers wrote their own views in their letters. A second contact was made to pick up the letter a few days later, wherever possible. The second contact was tactfully used as a sounding board for reactions. The letters of endorsements furnished material for a banner-lined article, "Leaders Back Bigger Play Tax. Letters Tell Views." This was published in a Sunday edition.

Contacts were used frequently and constantly. Their contributions to the success cannot be measured, but they were an important factor.

Speaking Engagements

Speeches were made in various places during the month before the election. They became more numerous as the referendum neared.

Speaking engagements were met in the churches of the city on the Sunday prior to the election. Large industries and businesses held short meetings the night before the election. Organizations, labor union meetings and governing bodies heard speeches and took part in round-table discussion about recreation. Community recreation clubs were a rich field for talks and discussions. The



"You have this—now."

"Do you want this?"



speakers came from the Playground and Recreation Board and their staff of supervisors and play leaders. Mr. L. H. Weir, Field Representative of the National Recreation Association, came to Decatur. He talked to service clubs, adult recreation clubs and P.T.A. groups. He also offered fine guidance in organization and publicity for the campaign.

Another type of talk, which came unsolicited and was hooked up with vital city life movement, was most effective. To quote from a newspaper item:

"In tracing the development of the three ordinance plants in Decatur area for members of the Lions Club, yesterday the President of the Association of Commerce said that one reason plant officials were interested in Decatur was the playground program. The president was present at many of the conferences of local representatives and plant officials and reported that the playground program of the city was complimented."

Organization

First in organization was the Playground and Recreation Board, which consists of five members plus the Superintendent of Public Recreation. The Vice-President acted as chairman for the campaign due to the fact the President was absent from the city. The Vice-President is one of the most efficient organizers in the city.

Second was an "Over-All Planning Committee." This Advisory Board was formed from the civic leaders holding key positions in the different sections of the city. Meetings were held each Thursday noon at luncheons at the Decatur Club. At this time the campaign was planned and frankly discussed. The Board offered ideas, rejected ideas and was used as a sounding board for current campaign thoughts and reactions.

Members were invited from the following groups: Service clubs, industries, schools, law, press, P.T.A., church, Chamber of Commerce, trades and labor assembly, medical profession, ministerial profession, business men, women's organizations, and the Playground and Recreation Board.

Then came the Campaign Committee, headed by a city-wide chairman, the president of the city council of the Parent-Teacher Association. She in turn selected four district chairmen, P.T.A. leaders in their districts. The district chairman chose two P.T.A. leaders from each school in her district, plus leaders from each playground in the district. These were assigned a certain number of blocks to secure block workers.

The block workers made door-to-door canvass of their block. On election day they phoned and made arrangements for transportation to get the favorable voters to the polls.

Letters were written to each block workers in the city and instruction sheets given to district workers and block workers. Reaction sheets were also furnished to list the name, address, and attitude of each person visited. These sheets were handed into the district chairman on Friday before the election. They were used on election day as guides to pull in the "Yes" vote, and also to gauge the trend of the votes being cast.

More power to the Parent-Teacher Association! They did a fine job on this recreational referendum. They were all anxious to help. They came to meetings. They gave much time to hard work. They proved themselves equal to the task of putting over the tax increase for the betterment of their children and their community.

The play leaders made a special effort and accomplished a splendid job. They increased attendance in a very rainy season. They built additional good will by many methods. They formed leaders' clubs. Each of them wrote a three-minute talk on "Why the Recreation Referendum Is Necessary." These papers were so well written that they furnished the information which was used in one of the best editorials of the campaign. Many of them brought out the idea, "Can Decatur afford to lose what she has in recreation services?" They acted as campaign committee in their neighborhood. They were poll workers on election day. Some, with their junior leaders, furnished transportation and made calls for the voters.

Special Spot Announcements

Special amplified messages to large audiences at softball games, movies and other play night activities were given as spot announcements. One or more announcements were selected from a group of eleven written for the purpose and given by the director. At the end of each announcement the following was emphasized: "Each voter must vote in the district in which lives. This playground is located in District and the polling place is school.

Example of Spot Announcement:

KEEP PLAYGROUNDS OPEN FOR NATIONAL HEALTH
RECREATION MEANS MORE POWER TO
YOU AND UNCLE SAM

VOTE YES FOR RECREATION—JULY 21

Exhibits

Handcraft Exhibit in Central Park. The park is located in the very heart of downtown Decatur. The exhibit was held on the Friday preceding election day on Tuesday. It was a live demonstration. The exhibit included handcraft work of the children from all the city playgrounds, who were seated at twenty tables in the park, actually demonstrating the various types of handcraft.

The exhibit was under the supervision of playground junior leaders, each of whom wore a white "T" shirt. On front was printed in blue, "It Pays to Play." On the back was written, "Vote Yes for Recreation, July."

Window Exhibit. A gaily colored exhibit was placed in a large corner show window of a business establishment. It included a large picturized recreational activity map illustrating the year-round recreation program service. Another huge colored map of the four polling places, telling the when, where, why, what, and who of the election was in the exhibit. A handcraft display and posters were included.

Exhibit on Each Playground. Exhibits were arranged on each playground for "Come and See" night, which was city-wide. The exhibits included a sample of all work and play that was done at the play centers. It was displayed for visitors.

Other Publicity Media

Letters of Appeal. Letters of appeal with literature enclosed were sent to all the ministers, governing bodies, service groups, women's organizations, and similar groups. There were fifty-eight in number.

Posters and Handbills. Eight different types of posters were made. Twelve hundred of these, distributed by play leaders and campaign workers, were placed in all sections of the city. Handbills were placed on every porch in the city the day before the election.

T-Shirts. One hundred T-Shirts were secured and lettered on the front "It Pays to Play," and on the back, "Vote Yes for Recreation, July 21st." These were distributed to junior leaders on the city's fifteen playgrounds.

Pledge Cards. This pledge card contained a simple map of the districts and polling places, and gave the date of election and the time the polls opened. It closed with this note: "You must vote in the district in which you live."

Then — "Tear here" and "Please leave pledge with play leader or at concession stand."

The pledge read: "I pledge my support and will encourage my friends to support the recreation referendum on July 21st." Signature, address, and telephone were asked for.

Results of Election

This story is told in the headline — "Decatur Doubles Recreation Tax by 9 to 1 Vote."

Miscellaneous Comments

There was a transportation problem. Distance to the pools was long, due to the fact that there were only four voting places. There was the rubber shortage to consider. A novel scheme of transportation was backed by the adult recreation clubs. A hayrack and a stagecoach were obtained to carry voters to the polls. Groups advocated hiking and bicycling in block groups to the polls. It made color and good publicity for an article entitled, "Travel to Polls for Playground Tax Vote to Employ Transportation Modes of Gay 90's." The article was illustrated by pictures and a map.

No radio publicity was used because the statute calls for the same amount of radio time to be allotted to the opposition in all controversial matters. There was some opposition, of course, but none courageous enough to voice it over the radio. Consequently no opposition could be furnished.

No organized opposition was ever presented during the campaign. However, great pains were taken not to stir up any. The campaign from beginning to the very close was carried on as if there were some opposition. No chances were taken. The determination was to win this referendum.

Conclusion

The success of this recreational tax increase referendum cannot be fully understood unless the back ground of Decatur's recreational program is mentioned. It has a background of a good program because it has been guided into national trends through the many services of the National Recreation Association. The Superintendent of Public Recreation emphasized: "The Association's bulletin services, its field experts, have been used extensively for help and instruction. Their guidance has kept the city on the right track and furnished Decatur with its recreational program background."

Service Men in the Out of Doors

WHEN CARL KAUFFELD of the Staten Island Zoo unloaded his luggage and cans containing snake characters at the USO Club located in a wood near Eatontown, New Jersey, it was about time for the scheduled exhibition but there were not more than two dozen service men waiting for the program. The zoo curator took sack after sack of snakes from his large satchel and laid them at one end of the stage, arranged two large black painted lard cans on the floor in front of the stage, pulled from his pocket several colored balloons and unconcernedly filled them with air and tied them on sticks—then, to the curious audience that filled only the front row of seats, announced that he had come to show them some snakes. While the writer was thinking that the

The USO initiates a novel activity in its program of nature education-recreation for our men in service

By **GARRETT G. EPPLEY**
Program Specialist
Army and Navy Department
National Council of the Y.M.C.A.

men who were not there did not know what they were missing, the group's attention was alertly brought to command as Mr. Kauffeld introduced an Australian Python, one of a species now familiar to many of our men overseas.

The more information these coast guardsmen were given concerning this python, and the more that they observed of its habits, the more interested and fascinated that unique front-seat audience became. So in the midst of the growing interest it seemed a little strange when some of the men quietly left the room and slipped through the auditorium door. More surprises were in store! No sooner was the python put back into its bag and a native king snake introduced than the auditorium door opened and a large number

John Tee-Van, Executive Secretary of the Bronx Zoo in New York City, and Robert Mathewson, staff member, give a reptile demonstration to soldiers at Ft. Monmouth



of excited soldiers came filing in by groups—hub-bub fashion—filling the room. Those who had not been curious enough to tackle the front row evidently had been out close by waiting for word to pass. The first report must have been a good one—judging by the mushroom-like growth of the number of men who were drawn to the auditorium.

Apparently here was something both interesting and exciting! The King, Gopher, and Indigo snakes made many new friends in a very short time—thanks to the ability of a skillfully trained naturalist to impart to his audience within a few minutes many interesting facts about the habits of non-poisonous snakes. By the time the copper-head had made its appearance, all the men, including those who had been afraid of all snakes, had become intensely intrigued in this new venture.

The climax of the evening was provided by the big Texas Rattler, a Western Diamond. Even before it was taken out of the large black metal can, its rattle had caused no little uneasiness among the assemblage. Mr. Kauffeld tossed this rattler upon the stage where he lay coiled while the curator quickly wound his way through the dressing room to reach the stage. Service men seated nearest the front sat on the edge of their seats as if expecting the rattler to charge them any second. Some of them seemed glad that their duties in guard work required them to carry their guns at all times. But they had nothing to fear for the snake was just as frightened as they were! As Mr. Kauffeld cautiously circled his steps about the snake the crowd could see this beautifully patterned rattler slowly turn its head and a short portion of its body to follow every slight move of Mr. Kauffeld, the rattle vibrating all the while and sounding like the loud clicking of a movie camera. The snake's American colonist attitude of "Don't Tread On Me" was in evidence at all times. To demonstrate this American attitude of striking only in self-defense of liberty Mr. Kauffeld thrust a balloon, tied to the end of a stick, towards the rattler, and the snake struck with a lightning-like speed, bursting the balloon. The zoo curator then skillfully caught the rattler, gripping it firmly back of the head, and exhibited it throughout the audience with its mouth wide open. By placing a tongue depressor between the snake's jaws the men could plainly see its erected fangs and the deadly poison drop.

The demonstration ended with a discussion of

the beneficial habits of snakes to man; how man can avoid molesting snakes; the nature of bites from poisonous and non-poisonous snakes and the proper procedure for the treatment of such bites. Those who had missed seeing the python asked for it to be shown again, and with its second appearance the first front-seaters felt quite friendly to their new found Australian friend. Though a variety show was scheduled to go on at the end of this exhibition, Mr. Kauffeld could hardly break away, so urgent were the men for answers to their many questions.

One lieutenant who had been present was visibly impressed with the effectiveness of the demonstration and its possible educational and recreational values. He urged Mr. Kauffeld to return and stated that the next time he came his entire company would march over for the program. He added he felt confident that as a result of this demonstration that members of his command, many of whom were from metropolitan areas, would not become panicky at the sight of a snake. Moreover, it was his feeling that the demonstration would cause the members of his company to find more interest in their natural environment.



Why Reptile and Wildlife Demonstrations?

Reptile demonstrations such as that given by the Staten Island Zoo have been successfully presented to USO Clubs and on Army reservations by the Bronx Zoo staff members, John Tee-Van, Executive Secretary; Robert Mathewson, Curator of Reptiles; Wm. B. Bridges, Director of Public Relations; and G. Earl Chace, member of the Reptile Staff; and by Wm. H. Carr, Director of the Bear Mountain Trailside Museums, Palisades Interstate Park, and his staff member, Nina Thomas. Future demonstrations are to be presented by Cornelius Benslow, staff member of the Children's Museum of Brooklyn, and by Roger Conant, Curator of Reptiles of the Philadelphia Zoo.

Wildlife demonstrations are one phase of the USO programs to introduce a natural history program to service men. The program, which was initiated last June with the cooperation of the leading national and federal agencies concerned with nature recreation, conservation and wildlife, has as its objectives the development of interests and abilities among service men which will enable them to feel at ease and adapt themselves to their

natural environment and to be able to enjoy that environment wherever they may be located. To the men who are stationed in remote areas where but few other forms of recreation are available, and to the men who are on the high seas or who are on duty in jungle and wilderness areas, such a program will have as its results untold physical and morale values.

For the majority of all armed forces war necessitates a rigorous outdoor life, and for the first time in the lives of many thousands of men they find themselves living in the out-of-doors. It is common knowledge that some people never want for recreation or education while they have access to nature; other persons find life in a natural environment quite difficult. News reports indicate that life in China, New Caledonia, Australia, and Iceland does not need to be monotonous, although not in the thick of the fight; on the other hand, these places can provide opportunities for recreational and educational living and avenues of great interest. Some service men can easily adapt themselves in new natural environments and even find real peace and recreation amid their hazardous tasks.

In addition, the importance of a nature education program in the protection and conservation of wildlife and natural resources cannot be overlooked. An increasing interest in wildlife and of the world's natural resources, and a knowledge on the part of service men as to how each can be preserved, may be the means of saving certain species of wildlife and forms of natural resources which otherwise might disappear.

Exhibits and Pictures Available

Before initiating a broad program on a wide scale the USO decided to introduce demonstration programs in the eastern section of the United States. This procedure met with the approval of members of the Subcommittee on Education of the Joint Army and Navy Committee on Welfare and Recreation who endorsed the program. To demonstrate the value of portable exhibits, Dr. Charles Russell, Curator of Education for the American Museum of Natural History, offered to turn over his entire department to the production of six of these exhibits. After the first two exhibits, "Poisonous Plants, Insects and Reptiles," and "Defense of Man and Nature" had been produced and placed, the USO approached Colonel T. E. Darby, Commanding Officer of the Army's School for Special Service, located at Fort George G. Meade,

to acquaint him with the possibilities of the program and to interest him in requesting an exhibit for the school. Colonel Darby stated that he felt the exhibits possessed both recreational and military values and requested the demonstration exhibits. The USO arranged for the first exhibit to be displayed to Lieutenant Colonel Spaulding, Director of the Army's Educational Division, prior to its delivery to the school. Lieutenant Colonel Spaulding visualized the possibilities of the exhibits for service men and requested all six demonstration exhibits for the Special Service School. During the first part of September, the last two of the six exhibits were delivered to Colonel Darby. According to recent information from Dr. Russell, the value of the exhibits have been evidenced to such an extent that the Army has entered into a contract with the American Museum of Natural History for the production of approximately ten exhibits per week for the next year. The exhibits will be placed in the Army's Service Clubs. Other subjects already selected for future exhibits are: "Camouflage," "Nature Superstitions," "Flight," "Signaling," "Foods," "Metals," and subjects pertaining to various foreign combat areas.

Four units of four pictures each are being loaned for USO Club usage by the U. S. Forest Service. The units present both scenic beauty and a conservation message. Additional pictures will be produced for the cost of materials.

The Office of Information of the Department of Agriculture is sending the USO ten of each of its three exhibits, "America Calling — More Pork Now," "Nitrogen Is Going to War," and "Every Day Eat This Way." These exhibits will be placed in the industrial USO Clubs. Exhibits which are in the process of preparation or planning are those of the Children's Museum of Brooklyn and the Philadelphia Zoo, the Newark Museum, the Milwaukee Public Museum in cooperation with the local Boy Scout Council and the National Park Service. The National Boy Scout Council is contemplating cooperation in the exhibit program, and plans to encourage local councils and troops to prepare exhibits for USO Clubs. This cooperation would entail considerable organization and supervision on the part of the local scout executives; consequently, the scout officials should be highly commended for offering to assist in this program.

Among the exhibits which have special appeal to service men are the electrical nature games. Two of these games were loaned to the USO by

The fascinating nature game board which has been prepared

for the use of USO Clubs by the National Audubon Society

CAN YOU



NAME IT?

PREPARED BY THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
1006 FIFTH AVE. N. Y. CITY

MAKE THE OWL BLINK



BLUEBIRD
HORNED LARK
YELLOW WARBLER
FLICKER
TURKEY VULTURE
SCREECH OWL
EGRET

CANADA GOOSE
MOURNING DOVE
BLACK BUCK
GREAT HORNED OWL
BALTIMORE ORIOLE
SCARLET Tanager
ROBIN

POW
BALD EAGLE
STARLING
BLUE JAY
RARE SWALLOW
ENGLISH SPARROW
CEDAR WAXWING

PHEASANT
GREAT BLUE HERON
DOWNY WOODPECKER
HOUSE WREN
SONG SPARROW
HERRING GULL
CHICKADEE

KINGFISHER
BOB WHITE
RED WING
RIGHT TAILOR
OSPREY
MALLARD
RUFFED GROUSE

MOCKINGBIRD
GOLDFINCH
MEADOW LARK
SPARROW HAWK
TOWHEE
CARDINAL
LOON

the Bear Mountain Trailside Museums. Another, prepared specifically for USO Club use, has been completed by the National Audubon Society. This game was prepared by James Callaghan, Director of the Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary, under the direction and with the assistance of Roger Tory Peterson of the National Audubon Society. Inasmuch as the cost of materials for one of these exhibits is between five and seven dollars the Army and Navy Department of the Y.M.C.A., one of the operating agencies of the USO, is studying plans

for having a large number of them produced by some public school system. Such games can provide the service men with considerable information and new avocational interests by appealing to their preference for electrical and mechanical devices and for games of skill. Electrical nature games and other designs of mechanical devices can be used for plane and ship identification, identification of geographical features of world zones and foreign combat areas, and other purposes.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepared the film "Wild Wings," which has been used for exhibit purposes and from which duplicates can be made. The film "Hills and the Seas," produced by the Harmon Foundation, has been used by the USO for exhibit purposes. These technicolor sound films present conservation messages of nature and wildlife with majestic sound and rare scenic beauty.

Books on various phases of nature recreation and natural history, timely pamphlets and current magazines of state conservation departments, museums, zoos, federal agencies, national organizations, and publishing companies have been displayed before USO Club directors at their training institutes.

Other activities of the natural history program



Courtesy National Audubon Society

Planes or ships may be substituted on the board for birds in this intriguing game of identification

for USO Clubs can include picnics, outdoor cookery, campfire programs, nature explorations, fishing, winter sports, visits to near-by places of interest and to museums, zoos and parks in the metropolitan centers, native crafts, sketching and the preparation of natural history exhibits for the club.

Possible Resources

The natural history program which was begun by the national office of the USO is now being conducted for the USO by the Army and Navy Department of the Y.M.C.A. Through

this agency of the USO the writer wishes to present the following list of possible resources as suggested aids to USO Club

directors and agencies interested in natural history, with the hope that through cooperative efforts a broad and effective program can be introduced to service men:

State Conservation Departments — including divisions of state parks, fish and game and forestry. Official publications. Samples: *Outdoor Indiana* and *Michigan Conservation* magazines

Official state road maps listing state and national parks and forests, historical sites, scenic areas, universities

Information relative to hunting and fishing seasons and privileges

Motion pictures and color slides of wildlife, scenic areas, and natural resources

Pamphlets on wildlife and natural resources

Assistance in program leadership from park naturalists and other personnel.

Museums of Science — state, municipal, private, park, school and university.

Official publications. Samples: *Living Museum* of the Illinois State Museum, *Natural History* of the American Museum of Natural History, and *Hobbies* by the Buffalo Museum of Science

Exhibit loans—existing and those specially prepared for service men

Motion pictures, color slides, and illustrated lectures.

Colleges, Universities, and Agriculture Extension Departments

Pamphlets on plant and animal life; motion pictures and color slides; information on natural resources; exhibits of local natural history and natural resources; program leadership.

Local Park and Recreation Departments

Program leadership; information on recreation facilities; assistance in preparation of exhibits and mechanical devices.

National Recreation Association

Publications; Consultation Service; information on recreation facilities and activities.

Clubs: Audubon, Astronomy, Older Youth, Nature, Outing and Boy Scouts

Program leadership assistance; news sheets; publications; loan of telescope; exhibits and assistance in exhibit preparation; scrapbooks of outdoor activities and nature subjects.

Zoological Societies

Wildlife demonstrations; illustrated lectures; motion pictures and slides.

Official publications. Samples: *Fauna* by Philadelphia Zoo (see September 1942 issue for articles—"A Naturalist in Uniform" by Sergeant Frederick A. Ulmer, Jr., and "Don't Tread On Me, Rattlesnakes of the United States" and "Rattlesnake Facts and Figures" by Carl F. Kauffeld), *Animal Kingdom* by the New York Zoological Society, and *Zoonoose* by the San Diego Zoo.

Local Nature Hobbyists

Loan of collections; preparation of exhibits and assistance in the preparation of exhibits; leadership for excursions; motion pictures and color slides; illustrated talks.

Nature Hobbyists Among Military Personnel

Program leadership; preparation of exhibits; interpretation of exhibits; talks; leadership for nature explorations.

Federal Agencies and National Organizations

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, Information and Extension Services of the Department of Agriculture, National Park Service, American Association of Museums, and the National Audubon Society.

Literature; motion pictures and color slides; illustrated lectures.

Publications

Books. Samples: *Nature Recreation* by Wm. G. Vinal; *Picnic Book* by Fredrikson; *Byways to Adventure* by Edwin Way Teale; *Our Small Native Animals* by Robert Nediger; *Down to Earth* by Alan Devoe; *Singing in the Wilderness* by Donald Culross Peattie; *The Sea Beach* by August F. Arnold; *Weather and the Ocean On Air* by William H. Wenstrom; and *Essentials of Astronomy* by John Charles Duncan.

Magazines. Samples: *National Geographic*, *Natural History*, *Nature Magazine*, *Recreation*, *American Forestry*, *Fauna*, *Animal Kingdom*, *Hobbies*, *Zoonoose*, *Sky and Telescope*, *Living Museum*, *Field and Stream*, *Audubon Magazine*, and official magazines of state conservation departments.

Timely Pamphlets pertaining to natural history—state and federal agencies and organizations. Sample: "Insects in Relation to National Defense," Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

At the Recreation Congress held in Baltimore in 1941, much of the discussion at the section meeting on Nature Activities centered about the opportunities open to nature leaders in making available the values of nature study to the personnel of the armed forces of the United States.

The question was raised as to whether nature study as a form of recreation would appeal to an appreciable number of service men. The experiences of a number of those present indicated conclusively that if nature leaders will make the proper approach to the subject, keeping in mind the advantages of using natural leaders who may or may not have had technical training in the sciences, and also realizing that people in a strange community are curious about the city and its natural and historic features, nature activity programs should attract many of the men.

The delegates at the meeting recommended the enlistment of volunteers in localities to formulate programs and encourage leadership of trips, emphasizing always the enjoyment of the scenic, scientific, and historic values in sections of the country in the vicinity of concentrations of armed forces and civilian defense workers.

A Treasure Hunt Full of Thrills!



Courtesy Children's Museum, Kansas City

By

JOHN RIPLEY FORBES
Former Director
Kansas City Museum

A treasure hunt is never without excitement, but when a museum becomes the scene of action there are more thrills than ever!

AS SOON AS THE NEW Kansas City Museum had opened its doors, steps were taken to institute a progressive educational program. Young socialites were organized into an association known as the Kansas City Musettes. After a summer school session under the leadership of the director, they were ready to take over the responsibility of the junior education program. The educational, recreational, and social program carried on by this group of enthusiastic volunteers would have done justice to an old established museum.

The most popular of the many educational activities carried on at the museum was the treasure hunt. Come with us some Saturday morning to the museum and see for yourselves how the children thrill to the fun and adventure of this activity!

When the massive doors open and the attendant walks down the path to the iron gates, a group of youngsters by the front gate, some of whom have been waiting a long time,

send up a rousing cheer! In they troop to the spacious hall and go to the game table at which an attractive musette sits ready for a busy morning with her young charges. Several other young women stand by ready to aid the young explorers in their exciting wanderings through the seventy-two room mansion. One floor of this large building is used at a time for the treasure hunt game. On the table are crayons, pencils, game boards, paper and, most interesting of all, a gay colored treasure chest with pirate pictures painted all over it. Each child receives a small typewritten ques-

tion, the first clue in this exciting game, and soon all have started on an expedition of exploration.

The Hunt Is On!

The first question or clue reads:

"My tail is long
My jaws are wide
My voice is rough
And so's my hide"

Excited children set out in different directions through the spacious halls of the museum in search

Forty years ago Anna Billings Gallup, curator emeritus, Brooklyn Children's Museum, developed the children's museum program that today is so popular. Among the numerous attractions were various types of games. Four years ago Miss Moore, former curator of education of the Boston Children's Museum, developed a new game known as the Treasure Hunt which has become popular in many museums. Miss Mildred E. Manter, Director, through publications and in conferences with museum officials, has shared these new ideas with all the field. And now Mr. Forbes, through his article, takes us on a Saturday morning visit to the Kansas City Museum where the Treasure Hunt idea has been embellished with new thrills and surprises.

of this strange creature, and the hunt is on. Some make for the bird hall, others the animal hall and so it goes, each child looking for what he believes will be the right answer. Those who are correct locate the alligator in a spacious case of reptiles, and on the outside of this case, near the alligator, find a tiny typed clue attached to the glass. On their sheet they have hurriedly written "alligator," after number one, the first clue, and now they read the new clue:

"I'm the biggest creature in the world
And I live in the deep, dark ocean,
Waves are furling against each other
Whenever I make a motion."

If the young treasure hunters are very familiar with the museum exhibits, the answer to this question is speedily discovered, and we soon find excited children gathered in an attractive hall looking up at the bones of a huge mounted whale. Sharp eyes readily spot the tiny clue in an inconspicuous place on the whale exhibit, and soon the children are reading the new clue, after having put the name "whale" against question number two.

Looking over the shoulders of one little fellow you read the following:

"Fish are my dish
And reeds are my nest.
My legs are long
And I have a green crest."

To discover this answer the children must search through the bird hall until they locate the long-necked, long-legged green heron mounted near its nest in the reeds of a habitat group in which numerous shore birds may be found. Sharp, trained eyes spot the green heron from among the other shore birds and soon another clue is located nearby. This one is sure to stump most youngsters. It reads:

"Across I went and back again
With a horse upon my back.
I made the trip a thousand times
Yet never made a track."

This puzzler will bring most youngsters into a good many of the halls before they locate the right object, which turns out to be the horse-powered ferry boat in a case of transportation exhibits in the historical room. There another question faces

To many of us, in childhood days, the museum was something less than a delight! Its atmosphere was forbidding, and the crowded exhibit halls with ponderous labels were for students, not fun-loving children. The few visits we made were with our parents, for children were not welcomed by the stern-faced guards. Today the modern museum opens up opportunities that stretch the imagination. Children visit it not once a year but day after day. Its effect upon their present and future is far reaching. The modern child explores the countless exhibits in a spirit of fun and exploration, and his horizon is broadened as knowledge is acquired through his contact with the museum program.

the young explorers, and on the chase goes until the twentieth question is found, perhaps at the base of the large oriental Buddha at the head of the grand staircase, or at the foot of the American bison in the center of the animal hall.

The last question may read as follows:

"If you've been sharp
With your brain and eyes
Go back to the game table
And claim your prize"

Or the question directing the child to the game table may vary from week to week and read:

"Now you have gained knowledge
As well as wholesome pleasure,
Take your score sheet to the table
Where you may claim your treasure"

Or perhaps:

"If you've found each clue
Its time for your surprise.
And this is your clue—
To return and claim your prize."

On reaching the game table the child hands his question sheet to one of the musettes, who checks the numbers to see that the young explorer has found the proper clues. They must, of course, be in the right order for otherwise it would be impossible to reach the end of the trail.

The Treasure Is Found

The great moment has now arrived, and an excited child is allowed to stretch his or her hand into a colorful treasure chest in which are various kinds of exciting treasures, any of which would delight a child. After moving about and feeling this and that, the little hand emerges with a beautiful pink colored sea shell clutched in its fingers. Delight and wonderment register on the face of the well-satisfied treasure hunter.

On another Saturday you may see a child take an attractive mineral out of the treasure chest, or some excited boy may bring forth a real "honest-to-goodness" Indian arrowhead. Still another type of treasure very popular with the children are the small mounted photographs of favorite exhibits. Children play week after week and obtain these lovely pictures, eager to have a complete set for their museum scrap books.

You may well ask, in regard the shells, minerals and arrowheads, how we can afford to give away museum specimens like this. These so-called museum specimens are duplicate items of which the museum has large numbers, most of them being very common material without any scientific data at all and with little, if any, display value. Were they not used in the treasure hunt the museum would dispose of them. To the youngsters they are treasures of the most valuable sort and the start, in many cases, of school or attic museums. Here indeed is an ideal way in which to use this type of material of which most museums have a great abundance.

The clues for our treasure hunts were made up by one of the WPA research workers, and the children looked forward to them each week. A list of the subjects in the museum which we wanted as the basis of the week's treasure hunt were turned over to this worker, and the clues worked out. Another member of the staff would then type the clues out and affix them to the proper case. After this a list of all clues and the proper answers would be made in their proper order so that the

musette stationed at the game table on Saturday would have the necessary information with which to check the young explorers' papers.

Some of the small museums, and the museums which do not have the facilities to change exhibits as often as do the large museums, may ask whether this game will not wear out after the exhibits have all been used. The answer is, "Not at all," for by changing the wording of a question or by altering the order of the hunt and other details, the treasure hunt does not lose its interest even in the more stationary museums. For example, on the skunk here are two clues used during different weeks of the treasure hunt. One is:

"They call me many names
And Gee! it makes me wild
For people cuddle my cousins
Who are silly, soft and mild."

The other clue reads:

"Look for the white stripe
And tail that curls up high
But if you meet me in the wood
You'd best let me pass by."

Children from all over Kansas City visited the museum so frequently that

Reaching the end of the trail, the eager child
delightedly draws her treasure out of the chest

(Continued on page 418)



Courtesy Boston Children's Museum

A Recreation Board for Washington, D. C.

WHAT HAPPENS in Washington is always of interest to the entire country, and the fact that on April 29, 1942, President Roosevelt signed H. R. 5075 creating a Recreation Board for the District of Columbia will have special importance for the recreation movement.

In establishing a Board of Recreation, Washington has followed the example of a number of the nation's large cities, but the creation of such an official body in the nation's Capital is particularly significant because of the unique character of the local governmental machinery, the Federal nature of the city, and the local conditions in Washington.

The seven-member board appointed has authority over a recreation program conducted on park, school, and District of Columbia property, consolidating the three separate programs that once existed under the National Capital Parks, the Board of Education, and the Playground Department of the District. Under the cooperative auspices of an unpaid board, four of whose members are lay citizens, policies, personnel, program, maintenance, and expenditures for organized public recreation have been unified.

In addition to the citizen members, two of whom are women, the Board includes representatives of the Board of Education, the District Commissioners, and the Superintendent of the National Capital Parks who serves in an ex officio capacity. Members of the Board are as follows: Dr. Frank W. Ballou, Superintendent of Schools; Walter L. Fowler, Budget Officer of the District of Columbia; Mrs. Ethel S. Garrett; Mrs. Alice C. Hunter, President of the Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations; Irving C. Root, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks; James E. Schwab, Chairman of the Recreation Committee of the Board of Trade; and Harry S. Wender, Executive Vice-President of the Federation of Citizens Association. The Board has chosen Milo F. Christiansen as Superintendent of Recreation.

The Board selects its chairman and secretary from its citizen membership. It determines policies,

After years of careful study a Recreation Board has been established in the nation's Capital. Successful bodies of this type have flourished for years in Cincinnati, San Francisco, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and many other cities. However, with the eyes of the country continually on Washington, the fortunes of the Recreation Board and its staff in the District of Columbia will be watched with special interest throughout the United States. Their success will be an inspiration to other communities.

selects a superintendent and, on his nomination, other members of the staff; frames a budget for consideration by the District Commissioners and the Congress; administers the program; and arranges for the construction and maintenance of properties. The authority given the Board as to program covers a complete and

varied range of leisure interests of all the types known to community recreation programs. Receipts arising out of operation of the program go into a trust fund available to the Board. The maintenance and improvement of areas and facilities under the jurisdiction of the three agencies involved in the consolidation are provided for by agreements between the Recreation Board and these agencies.

Historical Background

Although a consolidation in recreational services in the District had been proposed as early as 1930 by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in conjunction with its coordinated plan for recreation properties, no systematic and continuous effort to secure unification was launched until February, 1935. At that time the President created a District of Columbia Recreation Committee with Frederick C. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and other agencies, as head for the purpose of achieving a unified program.

This Committee grew out of a study of recreation in the District made by the National Recreation Association the previous year under the auspices of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which had been requested to sponsor such an inquiry by the Council of Social Agencies. The American Planning and Civic Association had, meanwhile, through a sub-committee, thrown its influence toward unification in a recommendation suggesting a single organization with jurisdiction over all recreation activities.

Among the weaknesses revealed in the Washington situation through the Association's study were the following:

There were three separate recreation budgets; three maintenance organizations; three separate organizations and three separate supervisory staffs. It was impossible to use the various supervisory staffs as a unit when needed. There was a complicated system of permits for the use of facilities. The designing and construction of areas and facilities were done by three different agencies.

As its first choice of a feasible form of administration, the Association's report recommended a Recreation Commission appointed by the District Commissioners or by the President of the United States.

The District of Columbia Recreation Committee appointed Louis R. Barrett as Coordinator. He began his work in August, 1935. Then came the slow and difficult process of securing cooperation and a measure of unity. Meanwhile, the purchases of the Park and Planning Commission were steadily accumulating play and recreation properties for the people of the District.

The way of the coordinator is hard. Reviewing accomplishments in 1938, he pointed out a number of substantial gains. He said that the results were not as positive as might be expected due to fears and prejudices of some years standing and of unwillingness to change program policies and procedures.

The same year Senator King introduced a bill to create a separate board of recreation but nothing came of it.

In 1939 the Congress merged the Playground Department of the District of Columbia and the Community Center Department of the Board of Education under the Appropriation Act. Strong opposition to this step was met by the compromise of placing the jurisdiction of the combined departments jointly under the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and the Board of Education. In spite of this awkward arrangement, the merger turned out to be a forward step toward coordination and unification. The staffs of the two departments were now merged and other consolidations were effected. One office was set up. Yet when H. S. Wagner and Charles B. Sauers filed the report of their study of the organization of the National Capital Parks in 1939, they were critical of the recreation program and reiterated the recommendation already voiced on several occasions that a "new and separate commission must be established having complete responsibility for the recreation program in the District of Columbia."

In 1940 further gains in cooperation were accomplished. Congress again through the appropriation bill voted joint jurisdiction over the program by the District Commissioners and the Board of Education.

In this year it was decided that the time had now come to try for legislation creating a permanent and unified system of recreation instead of continuing to reply upon an awkward and a far from unified scheme resting on the shaky foundation of a rider in the annual appropriation bill. Weaver W. Pangburn of the National Recreation Association was retained to advise and assist the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and other groups in working for legislation. The Commission decided to make the securing of such legislation one of its major projects.

The story of the progress of this legislation, of the many hearings before committees of the House and Senate, of discussions by the President's Committee, Board of Education, District Commissioners, and others and the meetings of civic organizations is too long and complicated to include in this article. Although amended and altered many times and subject to the varied and conflicting rewritings of many groups, the bill eventually came through with its fundamental features intact. Step by step it obtained the approval of the public and the private agencies closely concerned with recreation in the District.

Many organizations and individuals played an important part in securing the legislation. The press worked consistently for a unified program.

Looking Ahead

The new Board and its staff are confronted with many important problems and tasks. One is the reclassification of the staff. Another is the development of much needed property now owned by the public and set aside for recreation purposes. Prior to the war the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had acquired sufficient land to meet modern standards for recreation purposes but there has been a lag in development for several years. This lag has been aggravated recently by the activity of the Army and Navy in taking over recreation properties for military purposes. The needs of the city as to program have been enormously increased during these war days by the influx of probably 200,000 or more persons newly employed by the Federal government. Still outside the jurisdiction of the Board are the golf

(Continued on page 422)

Do You Believe in Signs?



By
JOSEPHINE D. RANDALL
 Superintendent
 Recreation Department
 San Francisco

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, with its monster billboards, huge eye-filling signboards and blatant posters competing against each other for the attention of the passerby, has literally covered our highways, streets and even our country lanes with countless atrocious "signs of the times."

One of the attractive escapes from the tension of society that is offered by public playground and park areas is the noticeable freedom from commercial advertising. Perhaps it may be said that the real mark of identification for a municipal recreation area is the accompanying gap—the open space that hits our eye—the happy lack of "billboards."

Playgrounds should, however, have some other mark than just their breathing space quality, so that visitors may be able to identify the place where they have been and know the name of the department supervising or maintaining the area. It is desirable that such a sign be well displayed without detracting from the natural beauty of the play-

ground or park. Designs and construction should avoid resemblance to commercial billboards whenever possible.

Until the recent heavy demands for metal in war production, San Francisco solved its problem by designing an artistic sign based on the style of the roadside inn and tavern markers of years ago.

Large wooden signs, heavily bracketed with iron and hung from fifteen foot tapered metal poles, are standard equipment on all of the city's playgrounds. The background is painted a deep forest green, with hand carved lettering painted in light yellow standing out in pleasing contrast.

The literal translation of the five Chinese characters, reading from right to left, is: "Chinese," "People," "Recreation," "Leisure," and "Field," which, when put together, add up to a Chinese playground!



Proud of its Chinatown, largest of any city in the United States, San Francisco has built a complete playground in the oriental motif right in the very heart of this crowded section of the city. In keeping with the Chinese architecture of the grounds and clubhouse, the hand carved pagoda sign pictured here extends a cordial wel-

(Continued on page 424)



Print by Gedge Harmon

Home Play in Wartime

"We cannot dispense with recreation in the American home and community in time of war," Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator, says in his foreword to *Home Play in Wartime*. "The American people need to play and they need it now. It should not detract from but should forward the war effort. Children need recreation normally and even more in times of tension and anxiety. Adults need recreation because it helps refresh mind and body for the war's work."

SO YOU'RE GOING to be at home again—at home to your family, to your neighbors, and to yourself! You'll be thinking twice before you spend your money for anything except necessities, because you know that War Stamps will get behind America's fighting forces now, and will protect your family from inflation at the same time. You'll know that America needs its rubber for *business* now, and you'll eliminate all pleasure trips from your plans.

If you have a son, or a nephew, a cousin or a friend in the armed forces, or if any of the boys in your neighborhood have put on a uniform and left their families, you'll be eager to stand behind them in every way possible. And you'll know what a hole they have left in the home, and because of this, the family will draw a little closer and family ties will be stronger. You'll all want to be together as much as possible, in your work and in your play. You'll want your home to represent security, and peace and love. You'll want to find out all you can about home play.

Home play—family recreation—is nothing new. It must have begun long ago, about the same time that man began. It has always been more fun to play with others than it has been to play alone.

Many of the old, favorite games and sports re-

quired a lot of space. Square dancing, for example, took up much more space than the rumba does. And space became scarce. Industry grew, cities became crowded, homes became smaller. We began to go outside the home for much of our play—witness the automobile trips, the movies, the bowling alleys.

Now there is a turn in this tide—a return to the deeper satisfactions of family life, of knowing our children better, of finding time to be companions again, and of drawing closer to our friends and neighbors. No matter how complex have been the reasons for this—the war, spending of money for War Bonds instead of little luxuries, the rubber shortage, higher taxes—the family has come into its own again. We know now that parents and children need each other. They need the interests and experiences of each other, and they need the companionship of talking together and thinking together. Joseph Lee, the father of the playground

movement in the United States, said: "When the home ceases to be a place where the child may play, the reason for its existence will disappear." This reason must never disappear in America. The family is America.

And yet many of us have never played together, or if we have, it has been so long ago that we've almost forgotten how. We

In publishing this material we are giving you a peep into the new 20 page booklet, *Home Play in Wartime*, prepared for the National Recreation Association by Virginia Musselman. Other sections of the publication deal with Games, Reading, Radio, Hobbies, Music, Drama, and Handcraft. The suggestions offered are simple; any family can easily carry them out and have a lot of fun doing it. A special contribution has made possible the printing of a large number of the booklets for distribution to such groups as P.T.A.'s. Any individual wishing a copy may secure it by sending ten cents to the National Recreation Association to cover the cost of handling and mailing.

are self-conscious about it. It has been so long since we have sat on the floor, or romped, or giggled over practically nothing that we're scared to start. We forget, too, that being a playfellow doesn't mean actually playing every game with the children. It does mean becoming a definite part of the everyday life of our children—stimulating them to use their own initiative and imagination, and encouraging them by our interest and attention. In the family there must be the will to play.

Giving them lots of toys isn't the answer. Any plaything should encourage children to self-activity, industry and ingenuity. Such simple things can do this. H. G. Wells has said that one of his earliest memories was a play store, in which seeds in match boxes and pill boxes were his supplies, and old kid gloves, the fingers filled with corn, and the wrist tied with string, were his seed bags.

Dropping clothespins into a milk bottle, tossing milk bottle tops into a muffin tin, piling toothpicks across the top of a glass jar (holding your breath when your turn comes to put the last one in place)—these are all simple things, but they are fun, and everybody in the family can play them together.

The home is full of such play equipment, if you only look around and see the possibilities.

Statistics show that 87 per cent of the American homes have playing cards. You and your neighbors will continue to get together and play bridge, five hundred, pinochle, or gin rummy, or whatever your favorite card game may be. But have you forgotten that cards are not necessarily adult playthings? Try a good, rousing game of Pounce, or I Doubt It, or Donkey, some evening. And don't forget Pig, Old Maid, Slapjack, and Grab! Everybody in the family, from seven-year-old Billie to seventy-year-old Gramp will have a wonderful time.

For a game of skill, try letting the children toss cards from a distance of five feet into a wastepaper basket while they're waiting for dinner some night. Then see if you and Dad can beat their score. It's a good test of concentration and muscle coordination. When you get pretty good at five feet, try moving back five feet more. It's good exercise, too—picking up all those cards that missed the basket! Good for the waistline!

And if you want to please a two-year-old, just give her a silent butler and a pack of cards. The tray-top gives a most satisfactory bang when it closes, and she'll spend hours putting the cards in and dumping them out!

Do you remember the old singing game:

"This is the way we wash our clothes,
Wash our clothes, wash our clothes;
This is the way we wash our clothes
So early Monday morning."

Try it when Mary wants to help you make the beds, or when Bill is roped into wiping the dishes. Instantly work becomes play, and wiping cups is fun.

Your food budget may be slim, but the meals can be rich with laughter at no cost except a little thought and effort. Try serving the meals in different places occasionally, as a surprise. Have a picnic on the porch; breakfast out of doors; eat watermelon on the back steps. And don't forget special occasions. Celebrate the end or the beginning of school with a special dinner; a good report card with a favorite dish; a birthday with a treasure hunt for simple presents. Every holiday can be made into a party by making simple place cards, or a table decoration—and let the whole family make them!

Every now and then throw in a special celebration just because you want to, and it's fun. And invite the child next door, or the neighbor down the street. There's a tremendous satisfaction in sharing.

Try organizing a progressive party. Meet at your house for tomato juice or fruit cup and lots of dainty little sandwiches, pickles and celery. Go on to another home for a lovely hot soup, or a chilled bouillon. From there, meet somewhere else for a simple meat and vegetable plate, another home for a fresh green salad, and on to ice cream, cake and coffee. The expense will be much less for each family, and at each house special games can be planned—a quiz at one, table games at another, some nice, rowdy ones like Spin the Bottle, Prince of Paris, and Musical Chairs at another—ending with playparty games, or square dancing at the last. The same kind of party can be planned for the youngsters, and you'll all have a grand time.

Many magazines have pages of games, crafts, favors, recipes, and activities that you can try out

"Simple, inexpensive, stay-at-home recreation is possible for every family in wartime despite War Bond budgets and the absolute necessity for all of us to save tires and avoid unnecessary travel. Using the recreational resources of our own homes—our radios, books, playing cards, games, and our imagination—we can keep wholesome fun and recreation alive during the war, and make them help win the war."

Paul V. McNutt.

with your family. Why not start a scrapbook right away, letting each member contribute anything he or she finds. Play them first. If they're fun, put them in the scrapbook.

Play Space

What to do is one thing. *Where* to do it is another problem, but here again budgeting comes in. You've budgeted your time and your money. Now budget your space. Somewhere in your home is a natural gathering place for family play. It may be around the fireplace, where you and your boys and girls can gather, turn down the lights, roast chestnuts, pop corn, sing, play games and tell stories.

It may be around the kitchen stove, so warm and secure on a cold night. You'll want to make toast and cocoa, have a taffy pull (if the sugar holds out!) and think up all kinds of games to play with kitchen equipment.

Perhaps you have a good, big porch. It needn't be just a rocking chair porch. Paint game courts on the floor or on the table tops. Put a chest in the corner for toys. A sand pile might fit into another corner. Have lots of stools and pillows. It's much easier to relax into a play mood if you're close to the floor, or on it! Dignity flies away, and mirth comes in.

Wherever it is, no matter how limited in size your home is, provide play space. A three-panel screen with a door cut in it can make a playhouse out of a corner of a room. An old sheet hung over a bridge table makes a good playhouse or will double for a tent. The boys and girls will love to play inside it, as private as a desert island. If you fear for your wallpaper, put up a strip of denim over the children's corner. And if you want to teach them to care for their toys, give them a place to store them—a place that is all theirs. It may be a cupboard, or a bookshelf, or a chest that slides under the bed, but let it be theirs.

Don't furnish the play space with hand-me-down furniture, unless it has been cut down to the right size, and made young and gay with paint or covers. It should be sturdy and durable and colorful. Keep the floor bare, or cover it with

washable rugs, or linoleum. A blackboard is wonderful for rainy days. So are old toys, scraps, and storybooks that have been reserved for just such emergencies. Old magazines, scissors, and a saucer of flour paste will keep the youngsters busy for hours. Don't call your son or daughter away from play too suddenly. Remember how *you* hate to stop something in the middle of it!

If you've a yard, opportunity for play is limited only by your imagination and your ingenuity. Logs cut into two-foot lengths will furnish unending fun. Your boys and girls and the children from the neighborhood will roll over them, stand on them, balance on them, roll them, and use them in hundreds of different ways.

Try dyeing six burlap bags different colors, and filling them with sawdust or excelsior. The children will pile them, sit on them, jump over them and use them for punching bags. Wooden boxes of various sizes, enameled bright colors, will also offer endless play possibilities.

If you've a large tree in the yard, you can have a rope swing. A sand box, a see-saw, and a playhouse are easy to make. For the older boys and girls (including you and your neighbors), horse-shoe pitching, a dart game, shuffleboard on the driveway, a net or rope for paddle tennis and badminton will keep you busy all evening. Croquet, too, is more popular now than it was in the Gay Nineties.

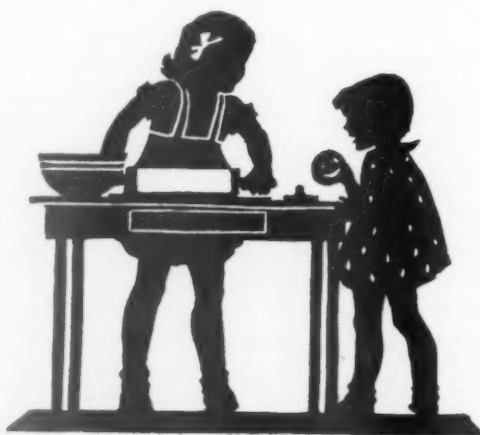
If it is possible, build an outdoor fireplace or grill, and have community picnic suppers out of doors. Let the fathers cook the meals once in a while. It'll be more fun if you provide them with big white aprons and chef's caps. They're easy to make!

Have Sunday morning breakfast out of doors—a long, lazy meal. It's surprising how much better the news will seem when your family is around you, and the sky is blue and the sun bright above you.

In the summer, when it's warm, let the children play out of doors in their bathing suits in the rain. Let them build a lean-to or a tent or a shack, and sleep out there on a hot night. It will be thrilling to them.

(Continued on page 421)

The children will love to have a part in preparing for parties



Print by Gedge Harmon



Chicago Tribune Photo

Cycling Can Be Fun for Adults

FIVE YEARS AGO the Recreation Board of our village formed a women's cycle club which met with a reasonable amount of success from the start. Now the membership has more than trebled, and each weekly trip brings out new members.

Women who have never been on a bicycle are learning how to ride, and after a few weeks' practice become experienced riders. The bikes are not used just for fun but are the means of quick and easy transportation on shopping trips.

In order to belong to the national movement the Maywood Cycle Club members are affiliated with the League of American Wheelmen. This brings them into contact with the other cyclers and takes them out on many special trips. The dues of this organization are one dollar a year, and this entitles each member to a monthly national bicycle publication and a mimeographed news sheet from

Any time at all is the right time for organizing a cycle club, but fall with its beautiful colors and crisp temperature offers some special inducements!

By FLORENCE ROTERMUND
Assistant Director of Recreation
Maywood, Illinois

the local council. Club representatives are sent from all member clubs to the monthly meetings to have a voice in the plans formed.

Our club holds an election of officers each year, and all meetings except the first are held out of doors on the

weekly trips, perhaps around a Forest Preserve pump or under the shade of an oak tree. A trip committee appointed at the first meeting plans the weekly trips ten weeks in advance. The destinations and route of travel are listed and each member receives a copy. The local papers have given the club weekly publicity along with space for pictures. The Chicago papers, too, have sent photographers out for group pictures and have given cycling a big boost.

The trip committee works out both short and long trips to meet the needs for the inexperienced and experienced riders. The average round trip

for the women is about fifteen miles, and the longest trip of the season is about forty. Every six weeks an all-day trip is planned and the group has a weenie roast, steak fry, or eats at some commercial eating house. The other weekly trips start at nine in the morning and terminate at noon. On each trip someone acts as the leader and another one serves as "rear guard."

Some of the rules which the club follows are:

Obey all traffic signals, stop lights and stop street signs.

The rear guard will use her whistle as follows:

Stop: 1 blast; go, 2 blasts; caution—slow, 3 blasts; off the road, 4 blasts.

Try to stay together. Obey the rules given by the leader.

Ride in single file near the right edge of two lane highways. Ride in two's as near as possible to the right hand edge of our lane highways.

Ride in a straight line, don't weave in and out.

If you leave the group at any point of the trip report to the leader.

Use arm signals in making turns.

Do not ride ahead of the leader at any time.

Since the women's club met with so much success, evening rides have been added for the working women and the men. The first trip brought out twenty-one riders who formed an excellent nucleus for the mixed group.

One of the advantages of bicycling is the carry-over into other activities results. Here in Maywood practically all of the cyclers will return for the winter program of volleyball which is sponsored by the Recreation Department of the village. The new reed baskets for bicycles have become popular with our group of cyclers, and we plan to have a weaving class this winter so that the women can make their own baskets for use on the bike next spring.

Recreation departments which have not added cycle clubs to their programs will find this an excellent time to start!

The present-day popularity of bicycling focuses attention on some of the historical facts regarding its development. These have been issued as follows by the Cycle Trades of America, New York City.

Bicycling has again become not only a means of inexpensive travel but a popular recreation activity for adults. Once more the "bike" has found a place in the American home. Father, mother, son, daughter, do their traveling by bicycle and find it both enjoyable and convenient. The old-time bloomer girl is no more, but the modern girl has discovered a keen interest in this activity.

The bicycle is probably the oldest fabricated article still being manufactured in which the basic principles have been least changed. The first one, in 1818, had a saddle, two wheels and a handle-bar, and these features are still retained, but it had no pedals and was called a "walk-along"

because when seated astride one could push himself along with his feet faster than he could walk. Pedals were introduced in 1839, over a century ago.

In the 60's, the first of the so-called "bone-shakers" was produced. This had a larger wheel in front and iron tires, and when pedaled over rough roads and cobbled streets shook the rider terribly, hence the name.

The first all-metal bicycle was produced in the 70's. Those also had large front wheels and small rear ones, and while still called bicycles were known as the "Ordinary" type. The height in inches of the front wheel denoted its size, and the tall man with his larger wheel had a decided advantage in speed over the smaller man. In that period also the "Star" or small front wheel bicycle came into use, but it never attained the popularity of the "Ordinary."

In the 80's the first "Safety" was made. This had both wheels of the same diameter and a chain-transmitted power from the pedals to the rear wheel. By this method it was possible so to gear the bicycle that a small powerful rider had relatively the same advantage as the man on the higher wheel.

In the late 80's came the pneumatic tire, which gained great popularity in the early 90's as soon as its comfort and advantage were realized and appreciated.

Prior to the advent of the motor car, the bicycle reached its height in the so-called "Gay Nineties," and in that period its greatest annual production was around 1,200,000, but between twenty and twenty-five per cent of those were exported. With domestic retail sales of recent years exceeding 1,000,000 new bicycles yearly, bicycling proves its popularity.

"Bicycle riding is one of the best-known exercises for keeping one in good condition. It brings into play all the important muscles tending to create health. Most exercise which is done for a purpose is a task, but bicycling is a lot of fun while being beneficial. Bicycling has three important essentials—fun, health, and economy. If you will remember always to be considerate when riding you will find this true."—E. H. Broadwell.

It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

Cap'n Bill's Column of Nature-Grams

"**A**NIMALS, Adaptive Coloration in," Hugh B. Cott. Oxford University Press, New York, 1940. 508 pp. \$8.50. Although Darwin's theory of "natural selection" is out of date, here is some interesting evidence on the subject.

Atmosphere. Sheep were once kept in Roger Williams Park, Providence, for atmosphere. Two Morgan colts carried out traditional plantation atmosphere at George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia. A camp which I recently visited contemplated using an old grist mill as a nature museum with the traditional show cases and upholstered, glass-eyed mammals. What profanity!

Bartram, John (1699-1777). This Quaker farmer on the Schuylkill built his stone house with his own hands. Over the door of his greenhouse appears the inscription:

"Slave to no sect, who takes no private road,
But looks through Nature up to Nature's God."

One day, weary from plowing, he stopped to rest and by chance noticed a daisy. His study of the flower's orderly structure was the inspiration for his life-long interest in Botany. Bartram bought a bookseller's only botany, and mastered a Latin grammar so he could read Linnaeus. Self-taught, he was America's first native-born naturalist and created the first botanical gardens.

Biography. "Modern Americans in Science and Invention," Edna Yost, Stokes, New York, 1941. 270 pp. \$2.00. Seventeen biographies adaptable for story hours.

"*Coffee, The Story of.*" American Can Company, 230 Park Avenue, New York. 40 pp. History, maps, recipes.

Conservation. "The great wilds of our country, once held to be boundless and inexhaustible, are being rapidly invaded and overrun in every direction, and everything destructible in them is being destroyed. How far destruction may go it is not easy to guess. Every landscape, low and high, seems doomed to be trampled and harried. Even the sky is not safe from scath—blurred and blackened whole summers together with the smoke of fires that devour the woods." This statement by

John Muir (1838-1914) is as true today as it was when first written.

"*Conservation Education, Foundations of,*" edited by Henry B. Ward. Order from Retail Book Department, Science News Letter, 1719 N Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 242 pp. \$1.00 cloth, 60¢ paper. What some of the most active researchers and thinkers have to suggest about conservation education.

"*Crater Lake, The Story of Its Origin,*" Howel Williams. University of California Press, Berkeley, Calif. 97 pp. \$1.75. Simple and convincing.

Dedication. The following inscription is from a plaque in a State Park near Johnstown, Pennsylvania: "United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Blue Knob Camp No. 1, dedicated August 7, 1938. In recognition of the beauty of nature, combined with the vision and skill of man's labor, this camp is dedicated to the growing love of the out of doors; the building of physical vigor and health, the abiding spirit of friendship, human and Divine."

"*Dog Training, Companion,*" Hans Tossutti. Judd Publishing Co., New York. How to make a well-bred companion of the average dog.

Earthquakes. "Our Trembling Earth," Joseph Lynch, S. J. Dodd, Mead and Co., New York, 1940. Illus. 202 pp. \$3.00. A popular picture, in humanistic style, of amateur seismology.

Guidance. "Science Calls to Youth: A Guide to Career-Planning in the Sciences," Raymond F. Yates. Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1941. 205 pp. \$2.00.

"*Museums, College and University,*" Laurence Vail Coleman, Director of the American Association of Museums, Washington, D. C., 1942. 73 pp. Although this is a "message for college and university presidents," it might be studied by others concerned with campus museums.

"*Natural History and the American Mind,*" William M. and Mabel S. C. Smallwood. Columbia Studies in American Culture, No. 8. Columbia University Press, New York, 1941. Illus. 445 pp. \$4.25. Daniel Treadwell, educated at Harvard, in

(Continued on page 426)

A Young People's Symphony Orchestra

WEST HARTFORD, Connecticut, a town of thirty-six thousand with a town manager admin-

istration, is largely residential, having only a few industries on its southern perimeter. It has a public school population of 5,185 including kindergartens, elementary schools, junior, and senior high schools.

In the spring of 1941 the town of West Hartford participated for the first time in National Music Week and produced a musical program during the first week of May in which public and private schools and citizens' organizations took part. High school and junior high school orchestras and bands gave a series of concerts, and there was one huge chorus of children's voices and smaller choruses of adults. Much interest was shown by the large audiences at the several events, and some talent was discovered.

A citizens' committee, which cooperated with the Department of Recreation in sponsoring the May Music Festival, later evaluated the results of this first program and realized that there was a large number of young people taking instrumental music lessons and that sufficient interest in music was evidenced to make a junior symphony orchestra a possibility. It was recognized that the success of such an enterprise hinged largely on the right leadership—a conductor who knew music and children, and a citizens' committee willing to support his efforts and interpret the whole plan to the community. During the summer of 1941, after considerable correspondence by the Department of Recreation, a young man was found within the town of West Hartford. He possessed the necessary qualifications and proved to be a gifted leader of young people, winning their confidence and the enthusiastic support of the committee and the parents.

The Orchestra Is Organized

In the early fall a Junior Symphony Orchestra Committee met with the De-

By MARGUERITE CRESPI MARSH
Chairman, Citizens' Committee
Young People's Orchestra

partment of Recreation and with Peter Page, the first conductor-to-be, and laid the preliminary plans for bud-

geting and organizing an orchestra. The Department of Recreation agreed to finance, temporarily, the first year's budget; the music room of the William Hall High School was rented for Saturday mornings from the Board of Education; and the conductor generously accepted an honorarium instead of the salary which such leadership deserves. Through the newspapers and by letters to the schools, an invitation was sent out to the young people of West Hartford and the metropolitan districts of Hartford of which West Hartford is a part. Membership was open to any young person from nine to nineteen years of age who could play a musical instrument reasonably well and read simple music. Auditions were scheduled for successive Saturday mornings.

Thirty-five young people came to the first audition and some twenty more through the year, making a total of fifty-five. Each child was given an unhurried and sympathetic hearing by the conductor. Thirty-five were eventually qualified, and there was an average attendance of twenty-five throughout the season. The majority of the young people were twelve years of age. There was not a musically gifted young person in the group. Socially and economically it represented a cross-section of the community.

It had been the hope of the committee to interest the high school group of twelve to nineteen years of age, but they were conspicuously absent from the auditions. After some inquiry it was found that the high school students objected to the name "Junior Symphony Orchestra," and also that they wanted to play "swing" music. The name was changed to the "Young People's Symphony Orchestra." The Saturday morning rehearsals were organized into a younger and older group—the older group representing largely

The purpose of the Citizens' Committee which is in charge of the Young People's Orchestra of West Hartford is to give the young people of the town the opportunity to play together, with all the fun that involves, and to encourage an acquaintance with good music. The committee intends to continue this effort in the season of 1942-43, believing that a knowledge of good music, with the cooperative effort essential to becoming a successful member of the orchestra, makes for emotional balance and happiness for young people living in the confusion and strain of a country at war.

senior high school students fourteen to nineteen years of age. A program of classic swing represented by the George Gershwin music was begun with the older group. After a very few rehearsals it was evident that serious work was not contemplated by the senior high school group. All but two trumpeters dropped out altogether, and the swing program was set aside. The two trumpeters, a high school boy and girl, sixteen and eighteen years old respectively, were added to the symphony orchestra. They were admired and respected by the younger musicians for their skill as trumpeters, and in the ensuing months their leadership was a real contribution to the whole endeavor.

We, of the committee, watched from rehearsal to rehearsal the growth of unity in the orchestra, each young person measuring his ability against his neighbor, often unconsciously, and finding his place in the whole. The group had only average musical ability and one rehearsal a week did not make for rapid progress; however, slow progress was there. Individually they began to watch the conductor; to start and finish with precision; to try, consciously, to keep in rhythm; and to listen to the musical quality of their individual instruments, and to the music produced by cooperation of the group.

The Orchestra Begins Its Performances

On January 31, 1942, the conductor invited the parents to a parents' concert to be held during rehearsal time in the regular rehearsal room at the high school at 10:00 A. M. Attractive programs, carrying on the front page the first ten bars of "America" were prepared by the Publicity and Program Subcommittee. A twenty-minute program of simple classics was presented. The selections played were "The Star-Spangled Banner"; "Curious Story" and "Wild Horsemen" from *Scenes From Childhood* by Schumann; "Colonial Minuet"; and the "Triumphant March" from *Aida* by Verdi. Grandfathers and grandmothers, parents, and young brothers and sisters, plus the committee, made up an appreciative audience of fifty persons who listened with complete attention. The young people's pride in "belonging" to the symphony orchestra was apparent. The committee recognized that the preliminary steps toward the production of symphonic music had been well begun. We realized, also, that there were just ten rehearsals before the orchestra must take part in the May Music Festival of 1942.

Through the months of February, March, and April, slow but steady progress continued. In the middle of April, a concert was planned and given on the stage of the Edward Morley School—an elementary school of kindergarten through the sixth grade, the pupils of which were invited to be the audience. The chairman of the committee presented the Young People's Symphony Orchestra to these young students and invited them to join the orchestra as soon as they were old enough and could play reasonably well. The program began with "The Star-Spangled Banner," the audience standing and singing together. It was followed by a march by Jacques de St. Luc; "Gigue" by Graf Logi; a theme, piano sonata by Beethoven; a march by Handel; and selections from *Hansel and Gretel*, especially arranged by the conductor. This last necessitated a change of key and tempo halfway through the selection, thus testing their skill. The attack on the first orchestral selection was very ragged, some lagging behind a whole beat. The conductor called a halt and smilingly waited, then started again—this time with precision. His pleasant manner broke the tension among the performers at this their first public appearance and restored their confidence.

Three weeks later this same program was played during the May Music Festival in the beautiful auditorium of the Sedgwick Junior High School on Saturday afternoon, May 9, 1942, before an audience of adults and children. As we of the committee watched and listened critically to this second playing of the program, we saw a smiling confident group playing with precision and quality not present three weeks before. In that brief interval between the first and the final public concert of the season, the orchestra seemed to have grown six months in the maturity of its performance. At the end of the program the young people were asked to choose the selection they liked best, and the most difficult piece—the selections from *Hansel and Gretel*—was the unanimous choice. It was played again and so admirably that the audience arose in its enthusiasm and applauded and applauded. At this final concert fourteen string instruments, seven wind instruments, and two young people alternating at the piano made up the orchestral group. The orchestra and audience adjourned after the concert to the school cafeteria for ice cream and cookies. There, too, we thanked the conductor, the young people, and the friends who had cooperated through this first season, and

(Continued on page 426)

Music at Plummer Park

By FLORENCE LEWIS SCOTT
Hollywood, California

A CONTRIBUTION to the future of American music is being made at Plummer Park, the Los Angeles County community center in Hollywood, for it is there that Peter Meremblum of the University of Southern California has found a home for his California Junior Symphony Orchestra.

Nowadays, to be sure, almost every school and playground has an orchestra or two, so important is the place which music has come to occupy. But this particular group has earned unusual distinction and the County Recreation Department is proud to have a part in its work.

Every Saturday and Wednesday two hundred young musicians representing fifteen nationalities gather for rehearsal, coming from all directions within a radius of fifty miles. They are learning musicianship as only symphonic works can teach it under the leadership of Mr. Meremblum. They experience the deep satisfactions which come from fine performance, and very often they receive recognition and praise from distinguished musicians who are not uncommon among their visitors. They gain poise, these young artists, as individual talent and achievement bring first one and another to the podium as soloist with a full symphonic accompaniment played by their peers. And they have the invaluable experience of supporting the interpretation of outstanding visiting artists and of following the baton of eminent philharmonic conductors.

Since the work of the senior divi-

sion of the orchestra is mature out of proportion to the average youth of the players,

composers frequently bring to the group for performance their untried manuscripts, or recognized artists their new or unpublished arrangements. There is genuine reward for the great conductors such as Stokowski, Walter, Rodzinski, Barbirolli, Coates, and Iturbi who find time to direct the orchestra and who are amazed at the ability of the young musicians. Theirs is the joy of knowing that the torch of great music will be carried in the hands of these immature but devoted musicians.

A number of the orchestra's members have already found places for themselves in the world of professional music and have won success, some of them very early in life. Not all of the players, however, are bent on musical careers. They will lend their gifts to other professions and pursuits, but their firsthand knowledge of great symphonic works will deepen their understanding of the discipline and emotional release which were the essence of their early training, and will enrich all their experiences in life and the contributions which they will make to community living.

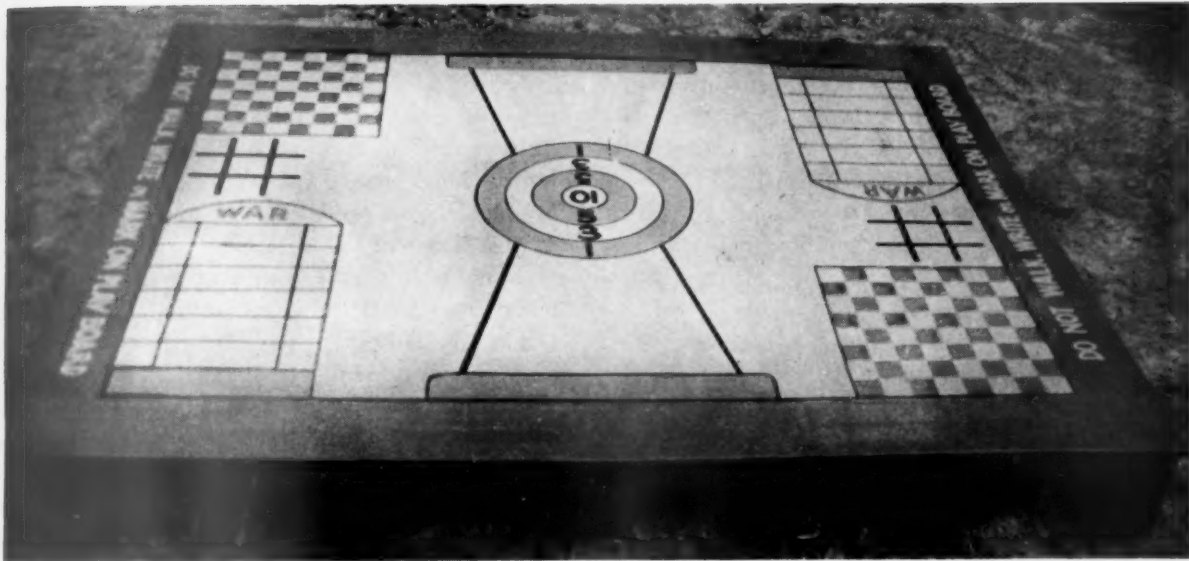
Peter Meremblum asks for no other reward than to know that these boys and girls are having the

(Continued on page 422)

"Young and beautiful" heroines must live up to their roles in the American Music Theatre



WORLD AT PLAY



A Novel Game Board for Playgrounds

THE playgrounds of the Township of Union, New Jersey, are enjoying a novel game board known as the "Union Game Board" because of its development in Union, New Jersey, and because it is a union of games.

The board measures 10 feet by 12 feet and is raised 10 inches from the ground. There are enough games on it to keep more than sixteen children occupied at one time. The border around the edge where the children sit while playing the games is painted dark gray. In order that the weather will not harm the board two light coats of a good grade of outside varnish were applied after the lettering was completed. No marking of any kind is required as all games are played with checkers.

The idea originated with Mrs. Esther Egbert, Supervisor of Recreation in Union, and with Mayor Biertuempfel.

Clinics Held for Song Leaders

UNDER the leadership of Arthur Todd of Stephens College, who served last summer as music specialist for the Westchester County, New York, Recreation Commission, a series of "clinics" was held at the Westchester County Center. The staff of instructors included a number of experts in song leading, such as Geoffrey O'Hara, song

leader and composer; Hugh Ross, director of the Schola Cantorum; and others. The meetings, which were held once a week, were devoted to such subjects as "The Psychology of Crowds," "Techniques in Handling Community Sings," "How Can Music Be Used More Effectively in Helping Win the War?" The aims of the clinic were the training of leaders, the promotion of informal singing, and the discovery of local volunteer leadership.

Block Captain Polls Local Talent

AFTER taking a poll of his block, a Chicago block captain (OCD) discovered that there was enough talent in it for a dance orchestra, according to the *OCD News Letter* for June 30, 1942. He checked off eighteen pianists, including himself, a concert violinist who is a policeman, a Russian accordion player, a bugler, saxophonist, harmonica player, church organist, several trumpeters, and a bevy of singers. There's never a dull moment! He is planning to enlist all the talent for entertainment at block meetings.

Airport Playfield in Cincinnati

AT THE end of June, 1942, the Public Recreation Commission of Cincinnati, Ohio, opened fifty-five playgrounds. The shortage of workers has brought into prominence volunteers

who have come both from among the adults of the city giving regularly of their time in considerable numbers on the playgrounds and from the boys and girls, many of whom are serving as junior leaders.

The Commission's greatest service to war workers and men of the armed forces is being given at its three recreation fields, including Airport Playfield. "One has only to visit the Airport Playfield any day of the week and to talk with the players to find out that a large number of those engaged in war industries are finding recreation during their off hours at the Playfield. Men of the armed forces are coming in increasing numbers." The month of June, 1942, showed a 75 per cent increase in attendance as contrasted with June, 1941. New activities at the Airport Playfield include canoeing, which has become very popular, and the children's swimming pool.

Delegates to the Recreation Congress had the opportunity of seeing this outstanding playfield.

Center Dedicated in Centralia—On July 9, 1942, Centralia, Illinois, dedicated its new City Hall and recreation center with a program of music and addresses. The building was formally presented to the Board of Recreation, of which John H. Higgins is Superintendent, by the Mayor, Wendell W. Websters. L. H. Weir, field secretary of the National Recreation Association, made the dedicatory address.

Gifts to Houston—That the Houston, Texas, recreation program is deeply rooted in the community's life is reflected in the number of areas which have recently been given to the city of recreation purposes and in gifts of funds recently made the Recreation Department. Mrs. John T. Mason has given \$25,000 for an addition to the community building in Mason Park, and a similar amount has been given by Miss Annette Finnegan for the development of Finnegan Park for the colored residents of that section of the city.

Recreation in Industrial Plants—The West Point Manufacturing Company, Lanett, Alabama, has a Department of Community Recreation in charge of activities in five communities. Robert A. Turner, formerly Superintendent of Recreation in Radburn, New Jersey, is coordinator of the activities in the five communities, each of which has a War Service Center with a full-time secretary in charge of each center under the supervision of a

committee consisting of the mill superintendent, personnel director, recreation director, and the school superintendent. At Langdale, Alabama, Victory Gardens have been particularly popular, and the season was climaxed with the judging of the gardens by the local county agent and the awarding of certificates. Physical fitness classes for volunteer defense workers have been particularly successful at Langdale and at Lanett. At Lanett and Fairfax, tot lots have been organized for children of preschool age whose parents are employed in the mills. Athletic contests followed by social events have been arranged with various teams from Fort Benning, Georgia, and groups of soldiers have been invited to attend the various programs planned by the Recreation Department. With the increased interest in bicycling the Department has organized bicycle clubs in each community.

Finding Volunteer Leadership—Local civic groups in Lakewood, Ohio, who were having difficulty in securing volunteer leadership, consulted the Director of Public Recreation who called together the PTA Recreation Commission. The situation was explained to them, and enough volunteer leaders were finally found by the committee to meet local needs.

Building Airplanes for America—Approximately 5,000 school systems involving 6,000 schools, 8,000 instructors, and about 300,000 pupils have participated in the project of building scale model aircraft for the Air Service, according to the July 1st issue of *Education for Victory*, which has replaced the magazine *School Life* for the duration of the war. These figures are based on returns from forty of the states participating.

A Recreation Training Institute—Last summer Montclair, New Jersey, held the first recreation training institute ever conducted jointly by all public and private social agencies engaged in recreation activities in the city. The institute was held under the auspices of the Summer Activities Committee of the Council of Social Agencies, with Robert Crawford, Director of the Recreation Division, acting as chairman. The institute was attended by sixty-three staff members and volunteers from the various leisure-time agencies.

In El Segundo, California—The Junior Employment Agency in El Segundo provides for the

registration of children for work within the thirty-three organizations in the city. Work comprises such duties as cutting yards and running errands. The children operate under the agency and under the direction of an adviser. Future plans include the publication of a junior weekly newspaper staffed by the children.

Need for Recreation in Wartime—Robert P. Lane of New York City has pointed out that in a period of upheaval and danger the need for recreation service is heightened rather than lessened. He warned that a marked reduction might appear to be a measure of economy but may actually prove to be wasteful, may lead within a relatively short time to conditions costly to the taxpayer and harmful to the community in general. He stated that the services performed by recreation workers are of the utmost value and urged their maintenance at the highest level possible. He quoted reports from Great Britain showing that juvenile crime had increased and adult crime decreased during the war months there.

Music Foundation Receives Bequest—An endowment received by the will of the late Marie L. Beyerle has been formally accepted by the Reading, Pennsylvania, Music Foundation. The bequest was given expressly for the purpose of bringing outstanding artists to Reading to perform with the Reading Symphony Orchestra.

The Reading Music Foundation is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is the advancement of fine music in Reading. Its primary beneficiaries are the Reading Symphony Orchestra and the Reading Choral Society, but its support is also given the free band concerts in City Park which were originally initiated by the Foundation.

"Blackout" Entertainment—A form of entertainment for children during blackouts was tried out in June at the opening of the new library at the Boys Club of New York, Tenth Street and Avenue A, New York City. A series of musical radio script records developed by Mrs. Molly Donaldson, composer and organist, and Miss Madge Tucker of the National Broadcasting Company were played to twelve small boys between the ages of seven and ten and their younger sisters. "Cinderella," "Little Black Sambo," and other tales were narrated in part by Milton Cross, accompanied by group singing, and in part by Ted Donaldson, eight year old son of Mrs. Donaldson,



DIAMOND'S

PART in the WAR

About ninety per cent of our factory's output is for Army, Navy, and Air Corps use. We are working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help supply tools for the war machine.

Such all-out effort is necessary in spite of the sacrifices of civilian business. We're in a war and we're in TO WIN! When that job is done, it'll be back to BUSINESS AS USUAL.

DIAMOND CALK HORSESHOE CO.

4610 Grand Avenue, Duluth, Minn.

whose stories were punctuated by the singing of children. The children, rather self-conscious at first, eventually relaxed and joined the singing on the records which they generally agreed were "swell."

The use of records to entertain children during blackouts has been tried in England. Children's voices were not used, however, but Mrs. Donaldson believes that the sound of other children's voices will be effective in making the children feel at ease.

At Lions Pool, Oakland — The Oakland, California, Recreation Department has established the following rates at Lions Pool in Dimond Park:

Week days, other than school days, and school days to 3:30 P. M., 20 cents; after 3:30 P. M. on school days (Oakland Public Schools calendar), 9 cents; Sundays and holidays, 30 cents—children's groups of fifteen or more, accompanied by an adult, each 10 cents; use of pool before or after regular hours, regular daily rate.

Classes in swimming instruction and life saving are organized upon request from a sufficiently large group.

Play Contest Announced—*Plays*, the Drama Magazine for Young People, is offering a prize of \$100 for the best one-act play for children. The contest is open to any resident of the United States, and the contestant may submit as many manuscripts as he wishes. Any type of children's play in one act is eligible. The winning play will be selected not only for its dramatic quality but also for its producibility by children of grammar or junior high school age. Further information regarding the contest, which will close November 1, 1942, may be secured from the Prize Contest Editor, *Plays*, 8 Arlington Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

American Education Week 1942—For the first time in its twenty-two year history, American Education Week will be observed this year on a wartime footing. This year's theme will be "Education for Free Men." Again this year the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., has prepared material which interested groups can use in observing American Education Week. For complete information about these posters, leaflets, stickers, manuals and plays write directly to the National Education Association. Date—November 8-14.

A Treasure Hunt Full of Thrills!

(Continued from page 402)

it was possible to use treasure hunt clues in a popular children's quiz program, and great fun was had by all as the announcer asked the children present in the studio, and the large unseen audience, whether they know what such and such a clue described. Some of the popular ones used on the air were:

"I'm big and round
And by the Indians made.
Storing food for them
Was the part in life I played."

This applied to a large Indian basket holding a prominent spot in the Indian Hall, a basket large enough for several of the small explorers to have used as a hiding place were it not under glass.

"Men in gray followed me
Through battles fought in vain
Where I flew, Old Glory
Was soon unfurled again."

A Confederate flag part of a Civil War case showing Union and Confederate uniforms, weap-

ons and various articles of war was the answer to this one:

"In my dress of woven rope
I've slept two thousand years.
You can tell just who I am
By the way my head appears."

This odd sounding clue applies to two royal Inca mummies some two thousand years old.

The historical room and transportation exhibit was the source of the following clue:

"I rumbled over the prairies,
In me folks placed their trust.
Signs upon my sides once read:
'California or Bust.'"

Museum material going back in time to 1200 B.C. entered the treasure hunt in the following clue:

"I'm made of semi-precious stone
Was buried with bitter tears.
Round an Egyptian's neck I hung
For many, many years."

A fierce looking figure of an Indian brave wearing articles of costumes from famous Indians was the source of the following:

"Around my neck are bear claws
I'm wearing a feathered bonnet.
My shirt is rare because it has
A host of scalp locks on it." (700 locks.)

The small children's pride and joy is the large shaggy buffalo standing in the center of the Animal Hall, it is easily recognized by the following clue:

"I'm a shaggy, useful beast
Who roamed the Western plains.
Long before the settlers came
With horses, guns and trains."

Thus countless clues from the popular treasure hunt fire the child's imagination both within the Museum and in the radio audience.

That the popular treasure hunt is a unique and valuable asset to any museum program has been proven. The one question which comes to one's mind is how to make this popular attraction serve as many children as possible.

May those of us entrusted at this grave time with the important task of promoting educational and recreational programs for children make full use of our opportunities! There is no consideration more important to the success of the war effort and the future of this war-weary world than the leadership of youth, the hope of tomorrow. We must use every device to keep the horror of war from damaging the future generation. May such wholesome activities as the treasure hunt continue to make the modern museum one of the greatest factors for keeping morale high on the home front!

A Hallowe'en Barn Frolic

(Continued from page 379)

arrived, and award a prize of popping corn or a packet of seeds to the person who collects the most beans.

Throwing darts at a target is always a popular pastime with young and old. Paste a silhouette of three cats perched on a barnyard fence and yowling up at a harvest moon on an orange sheet of paper about twenty-five inches square and mount on heavy cardboard. If you have a dartboard, use that as backing. With chalk draw a circle marked "5" on the first and largest cat, and smaller circles on the other two, marked "10" and "15" respectively. If you like, include the moon in the game and mark it "20." Until ready for use, the board will add to your decorative scheme. When it is time to play, have the contestants stand about ten feet from the board. Three to eight darts may be used, but each person should have the same number of shots.

"Lassoing the Scarecrow" is another game of skill and is more difficult than it seems at first. Bring in your scarecrow doorman and tie him to a clothes tree or fasten him in a Christmas tree holder. Give each person five attempts to lasso him. Award a prize to the person who has the highest score or who succeeds in roping him four out of five times.

A less active but no less entertaining game is a pumpkin seed threading race. Divide the guests into groups of four. Give each relay team a needle and thread and a bowl of wet, slippery seeds. The object of the race is to see which group can complete its necklace first. At the signal, Number One in each team threads three seeds and passes the bowl and chain to Number Two. Numbers Three and Four do the same when it is their turn. Hallowe'en candy makes a good prize for the winning team.

Refreshments. Doughnuts, red candied apples on sticks, or popcorn balls and cider are easy to serve to a large group. They will disappear in a trice, too. If you want to surround the refreshments with a bit of mystery, serve them sight unseen. Suspend barrel hoops horizontally from the ceiling by cords tied at intervals around the rim. Put raisins, nuts, doughnuts, popcorn, fruit, and the like, in vari-colored cellophane bags and attach them to the rim of the hoop. Be sure to include at least as many bags as there are guests. When



you are ready to serve refreshments, spin the hoop and have the guests grab a bag. One or more hoops may be used depending on the number of guests. Cider or coffee, of course, would be served from the refreshment table.

A striking refreshment table centerpiece is a jack-o'-lantern set between two pairs of black candles in holders made from husked ears of corn. To prevent the holders from rolling, remove three rows of kernels from one side of the ears. In the center of the opposite side cut a hole to fit your candle. The result will be oblong holders right out of Farmer Brown's cornfield.

Bibliography

1. *Teaching Physical Education in the Elementary School*, by E. Benton Salt and others. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. \$2.00
2. *The Golden Book of Favorite Songs*. Hall & McCreary Company, Chicago. 20 cents
3. *Singing America*, compiled by A. D. Zanzig. National Recreation Association, New York. 25 cents
4. *Parties, Musical Mixers, and Simple Square Dances*, prepared by Ethel Bowers. National Recreation Association, New York. 50 cents
5. *Tricks Any Boy Can Do*, by Joseph Leeming. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York. \$2.00
6. *All-American Square Dances*, by "Allemande" Al Muller. Paull-Pioneer Music Corp., 1657 Broadway, New York. 50 cents
7. *Musical Games*. Extension Circular 509. Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics. University of Nebraska Agricultural College, Lincoln, Nebraska
8. *Spatter Prints*. Bulletin M. B. No. 496-9-37. National Recreation Association, New York. Free
9. *Paper Bag Masks*. Bulletin M. B. No. 510. National Recreation Association, New York. Free
10. *Hallowe'en Fun Book*, prepared by Minneapolis Hallowe'en Committee, Minneapolis, Minnesota. 25 cents

Thanksgiving

(Continued from page 375)

spread of the tradition to the southern and western states was gradual.

Abraham Lincoln composed one of the most

"Stunts and Entertainments"

By Ethel Bowers

- Now available—No. 2 in the "Parties Plus" series by Ethel Bowers of the National Recreation Association.

Here are amusing stunts for all occasions—activities requiring no preparation; simple activities requiring some preparation; short stunts; suggestions for pageants from dramatizations; sketches and playlets; and variety show ideas.

In planning parties either for civilians or service men, this booklet will be invaluable.

... Price 50 cents

★ ★ ★

National Recreation Association
315 Fourth Avenue New York City

famous Thanksgiving day proclamations in 1863 at a time when the nation was divided in Civil war. The following year he set the fourth Thursday in November as the annual date for Thanksgiving, later changing it to the last Thursday of the month.

Lincoln's proclamation read as follows:

"I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union." From "Messages and Papers of the Presidents" by Richardson. Volume VI.

Today the governor of each state follows the President's proclamation with one of his state, tak-

Ernst Hermann

ERNST HERMANN died on August 31, 1942, at the age of 73. For years he was well known to recreation workers throughout the country as the recreation executive of Newton, Massachusetts. He had also served as Dean of the Boston University Sargent College of Physical Education.

Ernst Hermann was a second generation recreation leader. His father before him in Germany had been one of the pioneer leaders in recreation. Ernst Hermann himself had come to the United States in 1893 so that for nearly half a century he had lived and worked in our country. As early as 1909, with statesmanlike vision, he was urging the importance of industrial recreation, was advising wisely about the play for young children. After Ernst Hermann had retired, he took up carving at the age of seventy, and was very successful with it. Gardening was also a very special recreation interest.

Ernst Hermann will be greatly missed in recreation circles.

ing into account the resources and assets of the individual state, and making the home the central theme.

"Make and Mend It"

(Continued from page 384)

causing it to dry out and crack. Neatsfoot or Viscol oil will help to remedy this condition. The application should be made on the uppers and the outsoles. Keep the oil away from rubber cleats. Remove lime and mud from shoes before drying. Wearing football, baseball and track shoes on stone or concrete floors should be discouraged.

Football Helmets and Shoulder Pads. These articles are made primarily of leather covering and felt or foam rubber padding. Leather should be treated as previously indicated. Helmets should be packed with paper and hung in a cool dry place. Shoulder pads should not be piled up, as they will mildew and be pressed out of shape. These articles should not be suspended by the elastic straps.

Archery Tackle. All bows should be unstrung when not in use. Hang bow on ground quiver between rounds on the range. Do not lay it on the ground. When not in use, the arrows should be racked in a dry place. The rack should be so constructed that there will be three pressure points on

Informal Volley Ball

INFORMAL VOLLEY BALL, especially for mixed groups, has become very popular in the public parks of Baltimore and vicinity. As a carry-over of the physical fitness classes which were intensively organized in public school buildings in February and later taken out into the parks, the men and women eighteen years of age and over still continue to play mixed volley ball.

At other parks, informal valley ball is much enjoyed by mixed groups from fifteen years of age and up and at still another park a lively group of boys and girls whose ages range from twelve to fourteen years play regularly every evening.

There is some variation in the rules used in informal volley ball but generally they adhere to the following:

RULE 1—The game is played for twenty-one points.

Variations—15 points; 10 minute halves.

RULE 2—Each player serves in turn, rotating as in men's rules.

Variations—rotation by line; no rotation.

RULE 3—There is one service only with an assist optional.

Variations—no assist.

RULE 4—The ball may be touched twice in succession by girls, and once by boys. Only three people may play the ball on a side.

Variations—one touch for both boys and girls; two touches for both boys and girls.

RULE 5—Rules not covered are governed by Official Rules for Women.

The mixed game is so acceptable here that even though played formally, where the rules are strictly adhered to, there are many interested groups playing on the grounds in the county and city high schools.

The girls and boys, young men and young women, and the more mature men and women are well matched so that interest in the game is sustained throughout the year. From *Luella B. Snoeyenbos*, Supervisor of Girls' and Women's Activities, Department of Recreation, Baltimore, Maryland.

the arrow, two of them two inches from either end and one in the middle to prevent warping.

Wood. Wooden equipment such as bats, golf clubs, hockey sticks, javelins, etc., are built to last

"The Christmas Book"

IT is not too early to begin your planning for home and community Christmas celebrations. And here is a booklet for recreation leaders, teachers, club leaders, and others who wish to plan special Christmas programs and to inject into their celebrations something of the charm and beauty associated with the old traditional Christmas customs.

In the various articles which make up the booklet will be found novel ways to distribute gifts at Christmas parties; suggestions for enlivening the program of Christmas caroling; and many interesting ideas from the Christmas customs of other lands for party themes, decorations, and refreshments.

Order your copy now

Price 50 cents

**NATIONAL RECREATION
ASSOCIATION**

315 FOURTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

for long periods of time and will do so when properly cared for.

Moisture is the main source of difficulty. When necessary a good coat of spar varnish will protect the wood. Javelins and vaulting poles should be stored in a manner that will prevent warping.

General. Athletic equipment is expensive to manufacture and increasingly difficult to get, and therefore deserves the care recommended.

Home Play in Wartime

(Continued from page 408)

And in the wintertime, there can be as much fun as in the summer. Play snow games, like Dodge Ball with snowballs, and Hold the Fort—and see how few colds your family catches! Make snow men and snow angels; improvise a snow slide; roast potatoes and hot dogs in the fireplace. Have fun!

Family fun will take a little time, a little effort, and much imagination, but it will be a big war bond, paying a rich dividend in family spirit and morale. It will mean a rich, happy childhood, and

Junior Arts and Activities

*for the Elementary
Teacher*

and

ACTIVITIES ON PARADE

for the pupils

•
**THE MOST COMPLETE
EDUCATIONAL PLAN
EVER PUBLISHED**

•
TEACHER:

you owe it to
yourself and to
your pupils to
know how these
two monthly
publications
can help

•
**Send 25c for Sample Copies to
Junior Arts and Activities**

740 Rush Street, Chicago, Ill.

a growing spirit of neighborliness and contentment. Such a spirit is America's real front line of defense, and it is your privilege to hold it!

The Children's Hour

(Continued from page 380)

cast from the playgrounds as were many other special events, such as the Hallowe'en celebration formerly sponsored by the Recreation Department and the eliminations in the city-wide marbles tournament on each playground, as well as the championship play when all of the playground champions came together for the final city championship.

The Children's Hour has contributed immeasurably to the building up of good will for Lynchburg's entire program. Through the radio broadcasts playgrounds are brought into the homes, and many parents who would make no special effort to learn what the city has to offer their children become familiar with the program.

Radio, important as it is, is not, however, the only medium through which Lynchburg's public recreation program is given publicity. Among the best friends of the Recreation Department are the newspapers and their reporters whose cooperation is outstanding.

A Recreation Board for Washington

(Continued from page 404)

courses and swimming pools and many of the tennis courts of the District which, under agreements entered into years ago, are operated by concessionnaires. It may be that eventually these will come under the jurisdiction of the new Board.

Music at Plummer Park

(Continued from page 414)

opportunity they have craved and for which they are willing to work. And the knowledge that it is providing a suitable setting for this remarkable community movement is a source of deep satisfaction to the Los Angeles County Recreation Department.

The American Music Theatre

Another interesting musical venture at Plummer Park which is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Recreation Department is the American Music Theatre of which George Houston is the originator. The purpose of this theatre, an organization of young professionals, is to perform opera in such a way that the average American will like it. This means, according to Mr. Houston, that the story must be made as important as the music, and it is for this reason that the organization is known as the American Music Theatre and the work infused with true theatre values.

This principle extends to type casting. If the heroine is supposed to be young and beautiful, then she must live up to this description. Spoken dialogue is substituted for dry recitative. The type of acting used is in accordance with the best traditions of the American theatre.

It is the intention of the founder of this Music Theatre to develop nationalism in this art to such an extent that an American style of opera will be developed. As the tastes and preferences of the American public are discovered, American traditions in opera will develop. Composers will base their music on these traditions, and a truly American opera will come into existence.

Dr. Richard Lert is the musical director of the organization, of which George Houston is stage director.

On May 14, 1942, "The Barber of Seville" by Rossini, with new translations and dialogue by Mr. Houston, was produced in the Civic Auditorium at Pasadena.

The rehearsals at Plummer Park are open to the public, to students, and to anyone interested in watching American opera in the making.

"On to Victory"

THE "ON TO VICTORY" SHOW brought the 1942 season to its climax for the St. Paul Playground Artists' Club members. The two hundred and fifty participants thoroughly enjoyed their rehearsals and the presentation of the show. The various dance groups, military baton twirlers, Red Cross nurses, sailors, acrobats, and airline hostesses received instructions from five different professional dance teachers who volunteered their services. A chorus of fifty voices with solo singers carried out the general theme of the show, and marimbaphone, violin, and accordion players added greatly to its success. Proceeds were given to the Red Cross.

The club started with a dozen or so talented youngsters ten years ago and has been growing steadily. The active membership remains between 300 and 400, for members come and go as their interests change. During the past ten years, between 1,500 and 2,000 girls and boys have belonged for some period of time. A few stay with the club five to six years.

The object is to encourage talented girls and boys by giving them a development program through participation in musical events, radio broadcasts, bands, orchestras and club activity, and by providing them with an opportunity to appear before audiences.

Because of the large number belonging to the club, the danger of using a few children too often is eliminated. The churches, PTA's, and other groups appreciate this service immensely. They pay the transportation costs and \$1.00 for the accompanist.

During the past year, 2,073 entertainers presented approximately 500 programs with an estimated attendance of 65,805; seven musical revues with casts of approximately 50 participants were given in the parks during the summer months with an attendance of 7,800, and there were 103 broadcasts with 506 participants.

The Artists' Mothers Club entertained the members at four big parties during the year and financed the cost of costumes for various shows.

And now our "artists" are getting ready for a series of weekly musical revues to be presented in the parks. Fifty different children participate each week.



Happy Days Are Here Again!

THE study and instruction of Natural Science takes on a new pleasure and effectiveness with the advent of **CANADIAN NATURE**. Directors of Boys' Clubs, Play Directors, Camp Counselors, and others will find practical help in this unique magazine.

We believe that RECREATION MAGAZINE has thousands of readers who would be interested in the fascinating nature stories, wonderful photographs, drawings and color plates that appear in each issue of **CANADIAN NATURE**—the magazine which captures the hearts of everyone interested in nature and the outdoors. Parents, educators, librarians and nature lovers praise and recommend it. An ideal gift and a magazine which is needed in every home, school and library. **CANADIAN NATURE** is issued in January, March, May, September and November. Volume 4 for 1942 will contain 180 pages, 80 articles, 35 color plates, 150 photographs, 200 figure drawings. An Annual Index is bound in the November issue. The magazine enjoys wide United States school use. The articles are suitable to the whole of North America. There are subscribers in 43 States.

Money-Back Guarantee

Send coupon, with only \$1.25 for one year's subscription. If you are not completely satisfied, after receiving the first issue, notify us within 10 days and your money will be promptly refunded.

— — MAIL TODAY — — — — —

CANADIAN NATURE MAGAZINE
177 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Canada

Enclosed is \$1.25. Please enroll me for one year's subscription—5 issues—on your money-back guarantee in **RECREATION Magazine**.

Name

Address

Square Dances for Soldiers

(Continued from page 388)

fore the dance and engaged in games provided by the Courts until time for the dance. At nine o'clock everyone pitched in and the floor was cleared for dancing in a very short time.

The Lincoln Recreation Board received generous assistance in its program from members of local square dance groups. They served on committees to help plan the dances, and from their ranks were drawn callers for the dances. Music was provided by the Lincoln Unit of the Nebraska State WPA Music Project, a band which has been playing for square dancing with gratifying results for a number of years. A public address system, was installed for satisfactory amplification.

Lighting of the dance floor was quite simply arranged in this instance, as the Muny Game Courts are located in the same area as the Muny softball fields, tennis courts, and Muny Pool, with established lighting facilities. This area, it was felt, did Trojan duty this summer, with the square dances adding a bit out of the ordinary in the way of entertainment for soldiers.

Do You Believe in Signs?

(Continued from page 405)

come to the little Chinese boys and girls.

Outdoor signs exposed to a variety of climatic conditions and weather changes offer a problem in maintenance and appearance. San Francisco's signs are no exception. With the salt-laden air of the Pacific and the cooling summer fogs, much ground work and experimentation has been necessary before arriving at satisfactory paints and finishes that will withstand these corrosive influences.

The San Francisco Recreation Department is justly proud of the artistic signs designed by William G. Merchant, the Commission's architect, which grace the playgrounds of the city. "We struggled for years," says Miss Randall, "trying to obtain something which would be artistic, a little different, and entirely satisfactory." The Department, whose headquarters are at 370 City Hall, will be glad to furnish additional information on the design, erection, and maintenance of the signs to recreation departments in other cities which may be interested.

The Max Straus Center

THE DEDICATION in April, 1942, of the new Max Straus Center of the Jewish People's Institute in Chicago is a climax of nearly half a century of service. Almost forty years ago on the crowded lower west side there began in a store-front building a program of community service that in 1941 reached an aggregate of 900,000 people. In 1903 a group of young men started a subscription fund, collected \$250, and chartered the Chicago Hebrew Institute which in 1922 became the Jewish People's Institute. Ever increasing demands upon its services led to the building in 1927 of the million dollar structure housing the Institute. The broad halls and spacious rooms of this building were soon overflowing with groups of all kinds, and within ten years it was necessary to build the Institute Annex.

Today the Institute program ranges from creative dramatics, arts, crafts, social events, and discussion groups, all fostering individual personality development and civic responsibility, to vocational classes and counseling, hobby and interest groups, and physical activities.

The Max Straus Center, erected to help house the expanded program of the Institute, has three floors. The ground floor is operated by the Albany Park Boys' Club and has a games room, a radio room, woodshop, and photo room. On the first floor are lounges, library, and assembly hall in which are conducted classes in gymnastics for children and adults, acrobatics, dancing, active games, and socials. On this floor, too, are the locker rooms, check room, lobby, and the office.

The second floor has rooms for domestic science, fine arts, crafts, and volunteers. Here are conducted classes in ballroom ballet, tap, acrobatic and rhythmic dancing; dramatics; quiet and active games; art crafts; sewing, dressmaking and design; Red Cross work; weaving, cooking, and Charm Club. Preschool children have their quarters here.

In the ten group-work activity rooms on the third floor there are clubs in journalism, block printing, arts and crafts, games, storytelling, puppetry, and rhythm band. English and citizenship classes, a forum, public speaking classes, and an operetta group also meet on this floor. Two of the rooms are set aside specifically for the Albany Park Boys' Club activities.

"Over There"

(Continued from page 387)

deficit will be made up by the Red Cross. All these facilities are available to the Navy personnel abroad as well as to the Army, and the Red Cross is prepared, wherever existing services do not fully meet the requirements of the bluejackets, to establish additional centers when requested by the Navy.

Today's clubs are an excellent example of "expansion of service to meet needs"—recreation is the focal point, provision of a comfortable "civilian" bed and American food the enhancing incidents.

The full complement of club staff includes the club director, assistant club director, program director, personal service director, assistant program director, and a group of staff assistants.

The "Why" of It

The recreation programs in the clubs are planned to meet the probable needs and desires of service men on leave overseas. The attitudes and practices of the staff are based on this philosophy, stated as follows in the Red Cross Reading Guide for Trainees:

"An entirely new setting (country, conventions, people) offers problems in adjustment. Tensions arising from the conditions of actual warfare can be further complicated by the environmental factors.

"The necessity of regimentation and subjugation of the individual to the larger needs of the Armed Forces naturally impairs the individual's feeling of 'being himself' or of being a single, important individual.

"It is not the purpose of planned, informal recreation to 'counteract' the new environment by setting up a splendidly isolated American atmosphere, suspended in *vacuo* within the new setting, nor is it the purpose of organized recreation to substitute license and laissez-faire for regimentation. Either of these attitudes, engendering a provincial, narrow and formless program, would be more demoralizing than nourishing.

"On the positive side, the American Red Cross recreationist on foreign soil seeks to weave the new elements of the environment (the customs, the attitudes, the folkways) into the more familiar fabric of 'how we do it in America.' Such skillful blending of the foreign and the familiar should help to bring about the 'feeling of belonging,' of being comfortable in a new setting amongst new people. Next, the recreationist does more than just offer a wide range of activities; he plans these offerings so that individuals may participate not only in making choices, but in helping to set up choices. Further, the recreationist knows and practices the precept that program in-

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of
Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

American City, August 1942

"Municipal Priorities for FWA Projects" by Brig. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, U.S.A.

Beach and Pool, July 1942

"The Cleaning and Disinfecting of Pools" by Paul Huedepohl

"How to Keep Capital Losses to a Minimum" by Paul Huedepohl

"Recreational Swimming" by Nathan H. Kaufman

"Water Sports" by Ann Avery Smith

"The Whys and Wherefores of Insurance for Pools and Beaches" through courtesy of United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company

Camping Magazine, June 1942

"Can Girls Whittle?" by W. Ben Hunt

"Children's Camping in Wartime" by Paul V. McNutt

"An Open Letter on Priorities"

"War Hazards to Camps—Your Questions Answered" by Maj. Gen. L. D. Gasser

Crippled Child, August 1942

"A Leisure Time Program" by Mrs. G. Marvin Green

Hygeia, August 1942

"Exercise for Health," an editorial by Morris Fishbein

Nation's Schools, September 1942

"What Pupils Do After School" by Evelyn E. Holtorf

Parks and Recreation, July-August 1942

"Parks of Central California" by Edgar M. Sanborn

Red Cross Courier, August 1942

"Overtime Antidote" (Swimming) by Carroll L. Bryant

"Red Cross Overseas Clubs" by Robert E. Lewis

PAMPHLETS

Art Education Alert prepared by The Art School, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York. For sale by The Related Arts Service, 511 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Price 10 cents

Basic Aims for English Instruction. National Council of Teachers of English
211 West 68th Street, Chicago, Illinois. Price 10 cents

Boys in War-Time. The National Council of the YMCA
347 Madison Avenue, New York City

Children's Book Week, A Manual of Suggestions
Prepared by Book Week Headquarters, 62 West 45th Street, New York City

"Cracking Up" Under the Strain by Edgar V. Allen
American Medical Association, 535 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. Price 10 cents

Crafts with Nature Materials by Lois Corke. Appeared in July, 1942, *RECREATION*.
Now available in pamphlet form from The Womens Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Price 25 cents

Elementary Course in Photography
Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York. Free

Leaders' Manual of the Junior Optimist Clubs of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Harold Morgan

The Motion Picture in a World at War, twentieth anniversary report of the president, Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, 28 West 44th Street, New York City

National Fitness Council of South Australia, Annual Report State Bank Building, Pirie Street, Adelaide, South Australia

Our Neighbor Republics — A Selected List of Readable Books for Young People
U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Program Suggestions for Club Meetings by Monte Melamed
Grand Street Settlement, 283 Rivington Street, New York City. Price 10 cents

Services to the Armed Forces
American Red Cross, Washington, D. C.

Standards for Day Care of Children of Working Mothers
compiled by the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor
Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.
Price 10 cents

Victory Gardens. U. S. Department of Agriculture
Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.
Price 5 cents

formality is induced to the degree that sound and thorough planning precedes the program.

"Recreation is a social necessity of particular and peculiar value for service men overseas — providing that recreation is so organized, planned and conducted as to follow valid lines established for the democratic management of groups."

Men and women in the fields of recreation and physical education, who believe in recreation as a social necessity, who by experience and training are qualified to implement that point of view, fill the roster of these American Red Cross Recreation Services. From private and public agencies, settlements and municipal departments, from the teaching of physical education and the directing of summer camps, from every walk of recreation life they have come to Red Cross to weave their philosophies, attitudes and practices into a dynamic service to the Armed Forces of the United States.

It's Being Done In Nature Recreation

(Continued from page 411)

1757, was appointed to teach "Mathematicks and Natural Philosophy" at King's College, now Columbia University. He is said to be the first man to hold the position of professor of natural history in an American college.

Parks. Parks are defense resources of the highest order. British sailors have spent weeks "recreating" in our parks while their ships were being

repaired in our shipyards. Parks should be kept for recreation, but wartime often leads to exploitation. The Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona was recently thrown open to mining. The area is a superb example of an old desert in the new world. It should remain a monument to culture rather than to destruction.

Science, "New Worlds in Science: An Anthology," edited by Harold Ward. McBride, New York, 1941. 670 pp. \$3.50. Writings of thirty-three eminent living scientists. Significant for the campfire.

A Young People's Symphony Orchestra

(Continued from page 413)

said good-bye until the opening of the schools in the fall should bring us all together again.

Committee Organization

Throughout the season, from October, 1941, through May, 1942, the Young People's Symphony Orchestra Committee had met twice a month in the Town Hall, the Director of Recreation being present at most of these meetings. The seventeen members were persons interested in music and in the broader education of young people, and were drawn from West Hartford and the metropolitan districts of Hartford. A temporary chairman and secretary had been chosen by the group and subcommittees were organized which facilitated the work to be done. They were titled: Child Personnel, Publicity and Program, Transportation, and Finance. The Executive Committee consisted of the chairman of the whole committee and the chairmen of the subcommittees. The Finance Committee never functioned, for the attack at Pearl Harbor broke up our plan to raise a two-year budget in early January 1942. The budget of the first year was supplied from the funds of the Department of Recreation of West Hartford from whose director, Jacob W. Feldman, the committee and the orchestra had sincere and enthusiastic support. Through the season the committee helped in the transportation of the young people during stormy weather, and gave time and careful consideration to the needs of this young group and to the support of Peter Page, the conductor. Mr. John R. Thornton, of the *Hartford Courant* (the morning daily newspaper in Hartford) wrote many excellent articles descriptive of the orchestra and committee. Any success is due to the friendly co-operation of all concerned.

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Fun with Folk Tales

By Gertrude Larned Sloane. E. P. Dutton and Company, Incorporated, New York. \$2.00.

SIX PLAYS, each not over twenty minutes long in acting time, and each with music especially planned for it, are presented in this volume. All six plays are within the acting range of children under thirteen years of age. "King Thrush Beard," "The Golden Goose," "The Sprig of Rosemary," and "Rumplestiltskin" are designed for the use of the older children in the group, while "The Little Red Hen and the Grain of Wheat" and "The Fox and the Rabbit" are for the younger children.

Meet Latin America

By Sarah Morrison. Girls' Friendly Society, U.S.A., 386 Fourth Avenue, New York. \$.35.

THIS ATTRACTIVE PACKET, one of the Cue Program Series, contains seven sections, all designed to acquaint us with our Latin American neighbors. The tour of discovery arranged takes us to visit lands of different customs, Spanish rhythms, colorful market places. We sample their foods, sing their songs, take part in their fiestas, and learn their history and present problems. Recreation workers will find many suggestions in this interesting packet.

Woodworking Workbook

By Talmage Nichols and Harold L. Stiles. The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. \$.56.

HERE IS A GUIDE for high school students throughout their courses in woodworking, which in addition to the directions offered presents many interesting facts about woods, tools, and other materials connected with the project. "Everyone should have a hobby of some kind," says the author in his introduction. "Many boys and men find some branch of woodwork to be a most absorbing and satisfying activity for filling their leisure time."

Creative Crate Craft

By Paul V. Champion. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee. \$1.50.

HOW TO MAKE CREATIVE FURNITURE from little material other than discarded wooden shipping containers is the theme of this practical book describing thirty-eight useful and simple articles which have a place in the average American home. Each design is accompanied by full directions for construction, a full page detailed working drawing, a photograph of the finished article, and a bill of material. Only a few inexpensive tools are needed to make the articles.

Electrical Things Boys Like to Make

By Sherman R. Cook. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. \$2.25.

THERE ARE THIRTY-THREE PROJECTS in this book selected from a collection of nearly two hundred. All those described can be readily made in a shop which has the

usual hand metalworking and a few woodworking tools. No engine lathe is required. The directions and drawings will permit a beginner to make a flashlight, a toy motor, a radio set, and other articles. A "how-to-do-it" section gives many hints on things that are useful to know not only in making the articles but in household repair work.

The Bright Idea Book

By Madeline Gray and Robert C. Urban. E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., New York. \$2.50.

BASED ON THE NBC RADIO PROGRAM, "The Bright Idea Club," this book of spare-time activities for young people offers hundreds of tested and tried bright ideas. The book is divided into six parts covering hobbies, ways to make money, magic, sports, training pets, and puzzles. The volume is profusely illustrated.

Rural America Today Its Schools and Community Life

By George A. Works and Simon O. Lesser. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago. \$3.75.

IN THIS NEW BOOK on rural life the problem of rural schools and community life is discussed in detail and from many points of view. In one chapter the problem of the schools and rural recreation is discussed, and there is much of interest to the community worker in a chapter on "Local Planning: What Rural Communities Are Doing to Improve Their Own Situation."

America in Action

Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 6 East 39th Street, New York.

UNDER THE TITLE "America in Action," the Dramatists Play Service has issued a series of one-act plays for young people dealing with freedom and democracy. Twelve of the plays illustrating American ideals of freedom are now available at 30 cents each.

Bicycle Polo

By R. Bennet Forbes and Jack W. Stauffacher. The Greenwood Press, San Mateo, California. \$1.00.

OUT OF THE GAME OF POLO, which for thousands of years has been the sports of kings and princes, there evolved at the turn of the last century a new sport called Bicycle Polo. It came into being in 1897 when a group of sportsmen in Milton, Massachusetts, formed the first Bicycle Polo Club. After eight successful years the sport was gradually given up as the different players forsook polo on wheels for polo on ponies and other sports. About the same time the game became popular in England, and today there are more than a hundred Bicycle Polo Clubs in that country representing about 170 teams and more than 1,000 players. Recently there has been a revival of the sport in the United States, and there is now a United States Bicycle Polo Association which has issued rules for the sport. These rules, together with historical data and chapters on techniques

and fundamentals appear in the form of this attractive booklet of which an edition limited to 500 copies has been published.

**Canciones Panamericanas.
Songs of the Americas.**

Published in collaboration with the Pan American Union. Silver Burdett Company, New York. \$72.

This attractive collection of songs with music gives us a musical picture of every country in the Western Hemisphere. "Just as we learn much about the geography, history, and customs of our neighbors by reading, so we can know more about their way of living and their human interests by singing their songs."

Youth in the CCC.

By Kenneth Holland and Frank Ernest Hill. Prepared for the American Youth Commission. American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. \$2.25.

This book contains a fund of information about the CCC camps—the reasons why boys enrolled, what they learned, what work they did, what education and training they received, and how the CCC experience influenced their lives. The volume is important as a record of the work of the first Federally supported youth work program which had a profound effect on the lives of two and a half million young men.

Teaching Athletic Skills in Physical Education.

By Henry C. Craine. Inor Publishing Company, Inc., New York. \$2.75.

During the author's fifteen years of experience in teaching athletic skills in secondary schools he has collected, improvised, and adapted hundreds of competitive skills activities. Approximately 215 of these have been selected for publication in this book as being the most effective in actual practice. They are organized according to the proper teaching plan for each of the eight sports covered. Part I of the volume deals with the athletic skills teaching program; Part II with activities.

**Non-Government Sources of Information
on National Defense.**

U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

This publication, a companion pamphlet to *Government Sources of Information on National Defense*, has been prepared as a guide to current materials available from non-government, non-profit agencies relating to the total defense program. Prepared by the American Library Association, copies are available from the U. S. Office of Education.

The New Physical Education.

By Branyille B. Johnson. Burgess Publishing Company, 426 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota. \$1.60.

This, the second edition of Dr. Johnson's book, is designed to serve as an introduction to the philosophy, psychology, and pedagogy of modern physical education. The author states clearly the objectives of a soundly and wholesomely conceived program of physical education and presents in a practical way the techniques necessary to achieve these objectives. Throughout the book physical education's contribution to the whole person is made clear.

Bulletins—How to Make Them More Effective.

By Catherine Emig. Social Work Publicity Council, 130 East 22nd Street, New York. \$50.

In its latest publication the Social Work Publicity Council sets up guides for an efficient editorial policy, tells how to write good copy and how to use it advantageously. It outlines devices for attracting new readers and for getting the bulletin read.

There are practical angles, too—how to save money on paper, printing, and illustrations and at the same time make the bulletin more attractive.

**Stitching, Crocheting, Knitting,
Hooked Rug Making.**

By Ella L. Langenberg. The Holden Publishing Company, Springfield, Massachusetts. \$1.25.

Simple processes are outlined in this book designed for schools and recreation groups. There are many illustrations and diagrams accompanying the text.

Women for Defense.

By Margaret Culkin Banning. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York. \$2.50.

Mrs. Banning, one of our able women leaders, tells of the tremendous reserve force America has in the millions of women who are trained or who may be further trained to help in the war effort. She enumerates the accomplishments of women in World War I and in the period from 1917 to 1941, describes their status in the immediate situation, and tells what women of other countries are doing to help in the war effort.

Educational Motion Pictures and Libraries.

By Gerald D. McDonald. American Library Association, Chicago. \$2.75.

Because the educational motion picture has become more and more important, this study, the results of an investigation conducted by a committee of visual educators and librarians, is especially timely. It presents the findings on existing material on educational film libraries, and makes recommendations for developing more of them. Topics discussed are educational films, their value, market, production, and distribution; their place in the public, school, and college library; their importance in adult education; and as historical records. Of particular interest to the recreation leader is the list of educational film distributors and the instructions on care and preservation of film given in the appendix.

Officers and Directors of the National Recreation Association

OFFICERS

ROBERT GARRETT, Chairman of the Board of Directors
HOWARD BRAUCHER, President
JOHN G. WINANT, First Vice-President
MRS. OGDEN L. MILLS, Second Vice-President
SUSAN M. LEE, Third Vice-President and Secretary of the Board
GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

F. W. H. ADAMS, New York, N. Y.
F. GREGG BEMIS, Boston, Mass.
MRS. EDWARD W. BIDDLE, Carlisle, Pa.
MRS. ROBERT WOODS BLISS, Washington, D. C.
HOWARD BRAUCHER, New York, N. Y.
MRS. WILLIAM BUTTERWORTH, Moline, Ill.
HENRY L. CORBETT, Portland, Ore.
MRS. ARTHUR G. CUMMER, Jacksonville, Fla.
MRS. THOMAS A. EDISON, West Orange, N. J.
ROBERT GARRETT, Baltimore, Md.
ROBERT GRANT, 3rd, Jericho, L. I., N. Y.
AUSTIN E. GRIFFITHS, Seattle, Wash.
MRS. NORMAN HARBOWER, Fitchburg, Mass.
MRS. MELVILLE H. HASKELL, Tucson, Ariz.
MRS. CHARLES V. HICKOX, Michigan City, Ind.
MRS. JOHN D. JAMESON, Sugar Hill, N. H.
GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY, New York, N. Y.
H. MCK. LONDON, Indianapolis, Ind.
ROBERT LASSITER, Charlotte, N. C.
SUSAN M. LEE, Boston, Mass.
OTTO T. MALLERY, Philadelphia, Pa.
WALTER A. MAY, Pittsburgh, Pa.
CARL E. MILLIKEN, Augusta, Me.
MRS. OGDEN L. MILLS, Woodbury, N. Y.
MRS. SIGMUND STERN, San Francisco, Calif.
MRS. JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Washington, D. C.
J. C. WALSH, New York, N. Y.
FREDERICK M. WARBURG, New York, N. Y.
JOHN G. WINANT, Concord, N. H.
STANLEY WOODWARD, Washington, D. C.